

FORMING A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF ALL PUBLIC COMPANIES.

(WITH) { STAMPEDSIXPENCE.
(SUPPLEMENT) { UNSTAMPED...FIVEPENCE.

**FLETCHER AND CO., RAILWAY, MINING, INSURANCE,
AND GENERAL SHAREBROKERS, 163, WOODHOUSE LANE, LEEDS.
Gold Mining Shares Wanted.**

Original Correspondence.

RATING OF MINES TO THE POOR.—No. IV.

Sir,—The sleepers are awakened, the slumberers are roused to a sense of the imminent danger to which their passive blindness and supineness have exposed them. With the aid of such coadjutors as your spirited appeals have called forth, I have every confidence in anticipating an equitable adjustment of this question; and although I should hazard a second censure from the unrivalled "Ops," I must indulge in the hope of the ultimate issue being fair as "between man and man," notwithstanding that such result will be the work of a committee, of a set of gentlemen who owe nearly all they possess (as so aptly expressed by "Z." of Truro) to mining and its concomitants. Well, Sir, if this be the fact, if it be true that a body of men have derived vast personal wealth, high position, and great consideration from the products of mining, is it not reasonable to suppose that they will use every endeavour, if not to favour, at least to advance, an interest of industry to which they are so deeply indebted for their worldly prosperity? I look at it in, probably, a strange light, perhaps not that of the man of the world, who kicks the ladder down that has been the means of raising him; perhaps not even that of the child, who, trampling upon a parent, oppresses the author of his being, and destroys the sustenance for others which has reared him. I pray for, and expect better things of the gentlemen to whom this charge is delegated; and if they betray the trust confided, there surely will come a reckoning day, wherein they will repent their evil doings, and perhaps try to reinstate the previously healthy condition. We must be up and doing; it has been fully and convincingly demonstrated that mining has advantaged the poor, the landowners, and the country. If in any isolated case mining operations have monopolised land otherwise chargeable with a poor-rate, it has also followed as a natural consequence, and been proved so, that the loss of that infinitesimal rate, so levied, has been indirectly met and augmented by a hundred times its value, in the employment of the poor in such operations—operations, be it remembered, provided for by the capital of adventurers, and a poor, which must have been provided for by the landowners; or, in other words, the "royalty lords," who now it is stated, with one or two honourable exceptions, are attempting to shirk a responsibility which they should rather court than avoid. Oh! the morality of such beings, basking in the sunshine of certain prosperity, yet refuse a helping hand to their poorer brethren, and essay to thrust a helpless poor upon a class hitherto almost the sole support of the whole of what would be a poverty-stricken population. Shut up your mines, and what would become of Cornwall? Are there any other sources of gain to be had from such a barren soil? Why the fate, the simple end, would be seen in the aspect of wretched towns, paved with grass instead of stones, bankrupt tradesmen, huge workhouses crowded with half-starved persons, misery and ruin depicted on every countenance; and this is the unenviable state of affairs that some suppose these "royalty lords" wish to see once again, forgetting for the nonce that a wretched poor like this would have to be supported by them, the "landowners." If they will drive capitalists to do desperate actions—if they will oppress the poor for their own selfish ends, shame upon their grovelling souls—shame upon their feelings as Christians, and tenfold shame upon the hypocrisy which in saying one thing means another.

The shoulder of every honest man must be put to the wheel to remove such a disgrace to this country, and if the "committee" possess but one man who views the matter in the right light, that man is entitled to the support of every friend to the commonwealth of mining—right and left, on every side, must the battle be fought, until we are conquerors, and place the burden in the proper quarter. If the Legislature of this country will stultify itself in the smallest degree by consulting the wishes of a mere self-elected clique—a moiety of the substance of the people—it will then be the bounden duty of every father of a family, and all his offspring, to consider the cause their own, and make every possible exertion for the accomplishment of a just assessment.

Great things have sprung from little means, and it behoves men to watch events, now, as men, enjoying as they do from their Maker brains given for a proper purpose, and not to be misused or annihilated at the command of a knot of other men, simply because of a slight difference in their worldly circumstances. Never today, and never kiss the foot that seeks to injure and trample upon you as being mere dirt. I do not like digression, but we must strive in every way to direct the attention of the multitudes upon what is passing. We want no half measure, but one correct in principle, righteous in arrangement, and just in its final settlement. We shall shortly see the discussion upon the new bill; and, in its course, may be able more clearly to gather the true intentions of the "committee," and then for the success or defeat of our motion—"Assess the mines upon the royalty taken by the lord, who will pay it."

Devon-street, Hammersmith-gate, May 9. W. VERNON VENABLES.

RATING OF MINES.

Sir,—It is evident that the framers of the bill for rating of mines, as printed in the *Mining Journal* of last week, are totally unacquainted with mining in Derbyshire. I confess, however, that after reading the bill very attentively, I am unable to understand the real intention of the promoters. Although it consists of only four clauses, exclusive of the interpretation clause, it is so clumsily drawn, that he must be a very ingenious person who would venture to say he could interpret it. The preamble of an Act is sometimes described as a key to unlock the meaning of the enactments, but in this case it would prove a very useless key, for it, in effect, recites that some lords, by a legal quibble, evade payment of poor-rates upon their dues, which it is expedient to remedy, and thereupon proceeds to tax not the offending lords, but the innocent miners. It does not even impose the rate upon the dues which are certain, and paid to the lord without his incurring any outlay, but upon the mines—a precarious and very different sort of property.

Sec. 1 directs that the value of the mine shall be estimated at the sum paid to the lord within the year for royalty. Now, the dues are no criterion whatever of the value of a mine, for the lord claims his royalty upon all the ore raised, whether the miner gets any profit or not; and even when the latter is working the mine at a loss, the dues are invariably paid; so that under this clause it must often happen that the miner would be assessed, and have to pay rates upon the value of the royalty accruing, at the very time he was expending sums in making trial, or otherwise incurring heavy loss in driving levels and putting down machinery, to free the mine from water. Such an enactment would have the effect of putting a stop to a large proportion of the mines in this district. But, in Derbyshire, the lord is now rated, and pays upon the full amount he receives for dues. Is it intended by this bill to make the miner pay also? Or is the Act intended merely to apply to cases where payment of rates is evaded by the lord, in the manner indicated by the preamble? If the latter, the object would be obtained by a single clause, enacting that the lords should be rated upon the value of the dues, whether received in kind or money.

Last year, the petitions against the bill then introduced were signed quite as numerously by the Londoners in Derbyshire as by the miners; for the mines here are not so rich as in Cornwall, and are chiefly in the hands of the landowners, or of the working miners themselves; and any obstacle to the labouring miners following their occupation would create great distress, and very much increase the rates assessed upon the land for their relief. It is, therefore, considered that the attempt of the Cornish landowners to subject the mines in this county to such an injurious piece of legislation is, at least, uncalled for. Let them confine their legislation to remedying any grievance under which they think they labour in their own neighbourhood.

High Peak, May 6.

A DERBYSHIRE MINER.

THE ROYALTIES IN CARDIGANSHIRE.

Sir,—In obedience to the summons of your sprightly correspondent, "Ops," whose head on mining matters seems to be always clear—as clear, in fact, as the crystals he elucidates, and who, no doubt, from his nature adds to his knowledge of subterranean things that of superlunary also—I appear to his flattering challenge, and give some account of the royalties of Cardiganshire. I am glad to say the old state of things is gradually giving way to a favourable change. Some time ago nothing would suit the landlords of this country but 1-10th. By degrees the landlords have become acquainted with the fact that thousands of fathoms of slightly productive ground remain unworked in the mines, in consequence of the high state of the royalty, and which, at a lower rate, would be profitable both to the landlord and tenant. The landlords, acting upon this thought, have

reduced the dues generally to about 1-14th. Gentlemen, also, who have recently become largely connected with the landed interest of this district, and holding the heart of some of the best mining ground here, have broadly laid down the maxim, and acted upon it extensively, that an ameliorated condition of royalty would be beneficial to both the proprietors of the land and the mines; and it has come to my knowledge that one of the largest of proprietors, both of lands and mines—the head of one of the oldest houses of this country—has expressed himself in favour of a royalty of 1-20th. Under these circumstances, it will be evident that there is strong ground for hope that this silver and lead-bearing field will shortly be untrammelled from unwise notions, and that it will present advantages to the mining speculator equal to those of most other districts.

I desire to add the complement of the hope with reference to the Hafod Mines (which I am sorry to say I am not connected with), expressed in "Ops's" quotation in regard to their flowery qualities—that is, they will not only not be fated to "blush unseen," but that they will also not "waste their sweetness on the desert air." I still hear that this discovery looks uncommonly likely to make a good mine.

Goginan, May 5.

THE SMELTERS—"TICKETING."

Sir,—Allow me to address you on the subject of this bitter scourge to the legitimate, fair, struggling, and honourable miner. Any one attending the ticketing at Redruth, Truro, and elsewhere, will have an insight into this ancient but nefarious custom of ticketing. The fact is, there are about ten companies or smelters, commonly called smelting leviathans, whose ancestors have handed down princely and monstrous fortunes to these individuals, at the expense of the poor miner, and which monopoly is quietly perpetuated for themselves and future heirs. The miner boldly puts out his cash to discover the hidden riches; the miner sows the seed; the smelter reaps, sometimes 40, 50, 60—nay, sometimes 100—per cent. How is this done? Do not these worthies, through their samplers and their agents, agree previous to the ticketing what parcels of ore each company will take, and what price to give?—You take this parcel, and I will take that. Human nature is such that this plan of procedure is not to be wondered at. Competition by this step is at once annihilated, although in appearance matters look perfectly straightforward and honest; but the miner, who produces the metal by his capital and labour, is thus deceived. What is the remedy? It is simple. Let the principal mining companies (about 14 in number) at once combine—viz., Devon Great Consols, Basset, North Basset, West Basset, West Seton, South Frances, South Caradon, West Caradon, Bedford United, United Mines, Phoenix Mines, Carn Brea, Buller, Seton, and other companies. Let these companies combine, and find capital to commence smelting-works, and carry their ore to their own shop. What would be the consequence? The labourer would receive his fair wages, and the adventurer his fair dividend. Mines not now paying cost would be getting a profit, and mines now getting a profit of 15 per cent. would be getting 30 per cent. What is the fact? Numerous mines under the existing monopoly are struggling for existence, although the standard is high. The smelter ought to be at the mercy of the miner, whereas the miner is at the mercy of the smelter. "One and All" is the motto; combine, therefore, as the smelters do, and have your rights. Reverse the position; the smelters have had the monopoly long enough. Out of 500 mines there are not above 20 that pay dividends; and how is this? The smelters carry off all the game, although there are only about 20 smelters, they are getting princely fortunes. "Combination" is the watchword. "One and All" smelt your own ore, but do not wait until the standard is down: when in adversity your resources will be crippled, and unable to find the means to counteract the abominable monopoly.—Truro, May 5.

A SUFFERER.

COAL AND IRON—BRITISH EXPORTS TO FRANCE.

Sir,—It may be interesting to some of the readers of your *Journal* to know that the reduction of the duties on the importation of Coal and Iron into France, by the French Government, has been attended with very beneficial results, as far as British produce is concerned.

Britain's great rival in supplying the French market with coal and iron for some years past has been Belgium; and, until last year, she successfully competed with British producers. The reduction of the duties on the above-named minerals (especially those which came into operation on Jan. 1, 1855) appears, however, to have opened the French markets to a greater extent to English merchants, which is borne out by the fact of the imports of raw iron from Great Britain in that year having exceeded those from Belgium by 381,309 metrical quintals. With regard to coal, Belgium still holds the lead, although the imports from this country are steadily increasing year by year.

The following figures, from the French public accounts, will show the effects of the tariff reductions more clearly:—

IMPORTATIONS INTO FRANCE—COAL.

Years.	From Belgium.	Great Britain.	Other Countries.	Total.
	Quint. met.	Quint. met.	Quint. met.	Quint. met.
1840	7,479,541	3,921,231	1,436,845	12,837,616
1845	13,245,545	6,132,578	1,924,159	21,302,282
1850	17,185,286	5,882,495	1,930,478	24,998,259
1855	25,488,576	9,365,593	5,550,920	40,375,094

IRON, RAW.—(Fonte brute).

Years.	From Belgium.	Great Britain.	Other Countries.	Total.
	Quint. met.	Quint. met.	Quint. met.	Quint. met.
1840	50,558	115,750	28,620	195,238
1845	295,709	222,278	45,899	563,886
1850	178,632	131,545	28,188	338,365
1855	430,950	821,259	102,202	1,360,411

* A metrical quintal = 220 lbs. avoirdupois.

It is hardly necessary to remark upon the facts presented in these figures: it will be seen that as regards Coal, the amounts for both Belgium and Great Britain have greatly increased during the past 15 years, although the Belgium has increased in greater proportion than the British.

With respect to Iron the case is different: in 1840 Great Britain supplied more than double the amount sent by Belgium; in 1845 the imports from Belgium exceeded those from Great Britain; the figures for the year 1850 present a similar view, although the quantities had fallen generally, in consequence of the disturbed state of commerce in France, caused by the Revolution of 1848. In the year 1855, however, owing to the reduction of the duties, as before stated, the imports from Great Britain again assumed a superiority over those of her rival, and to almost the same extent as in the year 1840.

From these facts the importance of the reductions in the French tariff will be obvious to all; and there is no doubt that a still further diminution in the duties would place the French markets, as far as the Foreign supply is concerned, at the command of British manufacturers, who would then be able to furnish a good article at a moderate price, and defy competition.—London, May 5.

H. R. L.

SMELTING IRON WITH PEAT.

Sir,—In the *Journal* of April 26 is a letter from "Devonian," on the subject of smelting with peat charcoal. As this letter appears from a gentleman who seems really to wish information, with a view of seeing it carried into practice, I think a few observations may be acceptable, and, therefore, beg to observe that I have a specimen of very strong pig-iron, smelted with peat alone. I have reports of this fuel being used on the Continent, mixed with charcoal, with good effect, 100 lbs. of air-dried peat being equivalent to 43 lbs. of wood charcoal. I have seen it used in a foundry for re-melting pig-iron for casting cannon; also for puddling, welding, and refining iron, not as an experiment, but as the only fuel for an iron-works of considerable magnitude.

As a furnace manager of above 16 years' experience, I am convinced there is no practical difficulty whatever in using peat (without charring) as fuel in blast-furnaces. The reason why it has not hitherto been employed in England, is that practical smelters have not given it their attention, and theoretical ones could not, most probably, smelt successfully with any fuel. That this subject, in which I have for years taken a great interest, may be brought forward, I make a plain proposition—that I will engage to smelt iron ore with peat, and produce a good iron, if "Devonian," or other parties, will supply good peat at the iron-works under my management, or the cash to procure it. The result of an experiment in a small furnace, producing 60 to 70 tons of foundry pig per week, would enable him to make calculations as to the profits to be derived from smelting in Devonshire, where such excellent rich ores are found in the immediate vicinity of the peat; and having satisfied himself on this head, he could take steps, if deemed advisable, to establish iron-works, without fear of failure. If the proprietors of peat land consider the foregoing worth their attention, and will address the writer at the *Mining Journal* office, their letters will receive every attention from

A FURNACE MANAGER.

THE MINERS' ELECTRO-CHEMICAL REDUCTION COMPANY.

Sir,—From ignorance of the process, I am unable to form any distinct opinion of the merits of the Miners' Electro-Chemical Company's treatment of copper. I regard it with much interest and sincere wish of its success, but confess, after seeing so many abortive attempts, that I have my misgivings, in particular of the conversion, in a marketable shape, of the sulphurous vapours. The most perfect (because the most simple) method which I have seen is that of Mr. Alfred Trueman, of the Spilly Works, which, although founded on sound chemical principles, has not, that I can learn, been found practical in detail.

I have no desire (but on the contrary) to depreciate the reputation of the Miners' Electro-Chemical Company, for I am—I repeat it—in utter ignorance of its claims to public support or otherwise; but it occurs to me that there is also much ignorance on the part of the patentees who have severely reaped the conversion of "copper smoke," as it is called. Of what smoke really consists, and what they may have to contend with, which may prove of interest at this moment, and which I subjoin. The smoke, then, on issuing from the chimneys of mixed copper ores, contains:—

Copper and its compounds.	In small quantity.
Arsenic and its compounds.	Moderate.
Sulphuric acid in vapour.	Moderate.
Sulphurous acid.	Abundant.
Sulphur, sublimed.	Small quantity.
Hydro-fluoric acid.	Moderate.
Ferro-silicic acid.	Minute.
Iron.	Minute.
Lime.	Minute.

You will, Sir, I think, admit that these substances show a formidable array. That they may be dealt with successfully I have no doubt; but the question is, can they be done so economically? They baffled the genius of Sir Humphry Davy, and more recently of Dr. Faraday, who were for a considerable time intent on the subject, but finally gave it up, as presenting obstacles not only difficult, but impracticable. P. S. Gray's *Iron-square*, April 28.

THOMAS IRVING HILL.

The results I have given were taken from smelting operations at the rate of 30,000 tons annually.

THE MINERS' ELECTRO-CHEMICAL REDUCTION COMPANY.

Sir,—For some years I have been an occasional contributor to your valuable *Journal*, and you will find, from my previous letters, which you were kind enough to allow a place in your columns, that I have always advocated a change for the better in our present modes of reducing copper and other ores, repeatedly calling attention to the waste in sulphur, &c., as it at present exists. The strong and commendatory remarks in your *Journal* of April 12, and Mr. Clement's unqualified endorsement of Messrs. Wagstaffe and Perkins's specification, led me to hope that the problem was completely solved, and that the downfall of the smelters' monopoly was now nearly consummated. I have obtained a copy of the specification, and also a prospectus of the above company, and I must confess that I cannot see to the bottom of either. As I have always found your *Journal* open to all fair and candid discussion, I have taken this means to enable Mr. Perkins, who is an analytical chemist, to explain; and who, I see, by the prospectus, has constituted himself the prospective teacher of the rising generation of smelters. May it be so! A revolution is needed, and why may not Mr. Perkins, as well as another, be the guiding star? I am not much of a chemist, and I dare say a good many of your readers are in the like condition; and going down to Millwall, to see some laboratory experiments, would not be likely to lead to my illumination. I see, by the specification, that Mr. Perkins says nothing whatever about the manufacture of sulphuric acid from ores of any description. That has already been the subject of many patents; so we will leave that out of the question, as the method already exists, and is well known. So far as I can understand the specification, Mr. Perkins dissolves the ores in acid, either sulphuric, muriatic, or nitric, or a mixture of either, and again precipitates them, either by alkalies or by electro-metallurgy. I will now show Mr. Perkins my dilemma, and trust that, in your next *Journal*, we shall have a complete solution of the difficulty.

I will take, for example, 100 tons of the copper ore mentioned in Mr. Clement's letter; and I will also admit, for the sake of argument (although every practical man knows full well that such is not attainable), that an ore containing 19.6 per cent. of sulphur will burn itself completely dead in kilns, and give out all its sulphur and arsenic; and that it has been reduced to a fine powder, costing 10s. per ton, for solution in acid. Suppose, also, that the sulphur has all been obtained as sulphuric acid, and the case would stand thus previous to solution. I take, of course, entirely Mr. Clement's data, although I am perfectly aware that it is entirely a fine chemical calculation, which displays a curious ignorance of the composition of the metallic salts.

The sulphur (say, in round numbers) is converted into sulphuric acid, in the proportion of 3 tons of acid to 1 of sulphur. The 19.6 tons of sulphur in the 100 tons of ore will thus produce—58.8 tons of acid, at 3d. per lb., or 7d. per ton, 411,12s. And a dry calcined ore, containing only oxides of iron, copper, tin, and silver. This would be smelted at once by the common way, and of course the tin would be lost; but the expense of bringing it into as good a copper as precipitated copper would certainly not cost more than 6s. per ton of ore.

Would it not be better to sell the acid, and smelt the residue? Of course, if this were done, Wagstaffe and Perkins's patent would not come into operation, for only at this point it properly begins; and all profits from sulphuric acid are perfectly extraneous, and are not at all derived of the use of this patent. But, to follow out our illustration, suppose the 100 tons of acid are dissolved in the sulphuric acid, and the residue is a long and tedious operation, costing 10s. per ton, and a great deal more for fuel and labour than the operation of smelting. When the solution has been accomplished, and the residue—amounting, it must be remembered, to 48 per cent. of the raw ore—has been thoroughly washed, we have then in solution, as sulphate, iron, copper, and some arsenic; and if the tin exists as protoxide, it will also be in solution; if peroxide, it will remain amongst the insoluble silica, &c.

Mr. Perkins says he precipitates the copper by voltaic electricity; but what is the cost? A ton of acid thrown into solution as a solution as Mr. Perkins has prepared, could do no more than precipitate 1 ton of copper under the most favourable circumstances. This would cost, at present prices, about 14s. per ton of copper; and I suspect that the consumption of acid and metal in the patentees' batteries must amount to more than this. On this important point Mr. Perkins will, of course, be able to explain.

Again, the cost of extracting the 2½ per cent. of peroxide of tin from the residue must be very serious, as tin in that state is very insoluble, and the solution from this mass of stuff would be utterly useless, for its necessary impurities. Again, if the tin is in the first solution, it will certainly be precipitated with the copper.

Suppose the copper and tin extracted from the solution, would it be in a fit state to crystallise for sulphate of iron?

What extent of crystallising-room would be required for a works, the weekly consumption of ore being 400 tons a week, and what would be likely to be the price of sulphate of iron, if such immense quantities were produced? These are grave questions, bearing directly on the important points—profits or loss, and it behoves the patentees to set the public right.

I come now to another part of the specification, which claims the production of valuable commercial salts, and other products of great value, such as the nitrates of potash and soda. They are produced as follows: The patentees take the red-hot calcined ore out of the furnace into nitric acid. What sort of tank will hold hot nitric acid, or what manner of men would stand over or near such tank, and draw red-hot ore into it, the patentees do not state; and on this important point we are in ignorance. I should be inclined to put it down as an utter impracticability.

Now, as to costs and results, we can easily ascertain the very lowest penny it can be done for. Nitric acid of 150 sp. gr. cannot be made for less than 3d. per lb. To dissolve the copper and iron in the 100 tons of ore, as per Mr. Clement's analysis, will consume of nitric acid, as follows:—7 tons 12 cwt. copper—peroxide of copper—9 tons 10 cwt. will take of nitric acid, to form nitrate of peroxide of copper, 299½ cwt.; 14 tons 16 cwt. iron—19 tons protoxide, will take of nitric acid, to form nitrate of the peroxide of iron or per nitrate of iron—first, to convert the protoxide into peroxide, will require at least ½ an equivalent of nitric acid—106 cwt.; and for solution or conversion into a pernitrate of iron will require 660 cwt. more. The tin would be left insoluble.

We have thus got the iron and copper in 100 tons of ore in solution in nitric acid, by the following quantities, and at the following costs:—

For 100 cwt. peroxide of copper, 299½ cwt. nitric acid, at 3d. per lb. ... £418 10 0

For 390 cwt. peroxide of iron, 820 cwt. nitric acid, at 3d. per lb. ... 1150 0 0

Total ... £1575 0 0

To obtain a solution in nitric acid of the soluble part of 100 tons of copper ore, it costs by this process at least 1575s. To precipitate the iron and the copper again, and obtain "the valuable commercial salts" spoken of in the prospectus, we shall require further to saturate the 822 cwt. nitric acid in solution (the other 166 cwt. having been dissipated as binoxide of nitrogen) with 350 cwt. of real soda, which, at the present market price of 2½ per cent. per cwt., will cost 21s. per cwt., equal to 367s. additional. This will, however, produce (say) 58½ tons nitrate of soda, at 18s. = 877l. 10s. But, to put the matter in a tabular form, and to show more clearly its utter absurdity, the case stands thus:—

1125 cwt. nitric, at 28s. per cwt. ... £1575 0 0

350 cwt. real soda, at 21s. per cwt. ... 367 0 0 = £1942 0 0

58½ tons nitrate of soda, at 18s. per cwt. ... 877 10 0

A precipitate of carbonates and oxides of iron mixed, and only fit to be smelted or re-dissolved and precipitated with iron, (say) increased in value 1½ per ton on the ore ... 100 0 0 = £977 10 0

Clear loss on the operation ... £864 10 0

Any candid man will perceive that I have far understated the matter, and given every possible advantage to the patentees. I am certain I have understated the price of nitric acid by nearly 100 per cent., and I am equally certain that, from the impurities contained in the soda ash, the nitrate of soda produced will not realise above 10s. per ton. If any of your readers choose to try carbonate of potash as a precipitant, they will find about the same result. The plant for a works of this kind, supporting the project at all feasible, would cost an enormous sum, and it would be impossible to get men to work the process.

These are my present impressions, and are also, no doubt, those of others; and if Mr. Perkins can render any clearer statement, on strictly scientific and practical grounds, this letter will have done him good; but if his specification turns out to be what it seems to be, you will have saved much disappointment and loss of money by a timely exposure, besides retaining the character of your *Journal* as a fearless advocate of truth. The case of Berdan's machine is too fresh in the memory of the public for them to be led away with "come and see." Many clever men were deceived, and many of less standing and pretensions fell into the snare, of whom, I must confess, I was one.—April 24.

A SUBSCRIBER.

THE MINERS' ELECTRO-CHEMICAL REDUCTION COMPANY.

Sir,—Your correspondent, "A Subscriber," in the *Journal* of April 26, asks some questions as to the process of this company, and expresses his belief that its history and mine are at variance. As respects the latter point, I can only say that I feel perfectly assured I am in the right in all that I have stated in reference to Wagstaffe and Perkins's patent.

they gave so fair an account of the prospects of the undertaking that he had very little to add. They had a most extensive property in Calstock; on one side was the Devon Great Consols, the richest mine in this country; on the other, the Hingston Down Consols; another portion of the mine touched Gannals Lake, where great riches had been obtained; and lastly, their property was bounded by Bedford United Mines. The Chairman then detailed, at considerable length, the workings as mentioned in the reports, adding that he believed the mines would eventually turn out most profitable to the adventurers. The directors had selected Capt. Wm. Richards to inspect the property, knowing he was so well acquainted with the locality. However, they did intend to take the opinion of Capt. Richards, of the Devon Great Consols, but as the meeting of that company would shortly be held, he was unable to report in time for the present occasion, but would do so as early as possible, when his report should be inserted in the *Mining Journal*. He (the Chairman) could not conceive, situated as the mine was, if they went on prudently and cautiously, but that eventually all must be amply compensated for their patience and perseverance. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the reports and accounts.

Mr. BEALE seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

The Chairman said, as several of the large shareholders were in the habit of visiting the mines, he was anxious for them to forward their reports, for the general benefit of those interested. A very large holder from Dublin had recently inspected the property, and expressed his entire confidence in the way in which the mines were conducted.

Votes of thanks were then passed to the committee, Mr. B. L. Sowell (the auditor), and to the Chairman, for his able conduct in the chair.

The Chairman, in returning thanks, said he had paid great attention to the business of the company, and he trusted it would turn up one of the prizes of the district.

The proceedings then terminated.

GREAT TREGUNE CONSOLS MINING COMPANY.

A special general meeting of shareholders was held at the offices of the company, 26, Bucklersbury, yesterday. In the absence of Mr. G. W. Scott, the chair was taken by one of the directors.

Mr. W. H. POLLARD (the secretary), read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the last, which were read and approved.

The Chairman said, that by the unavoidable absence of his friend and colleague, Mr. Scott, the duties of chairman had devolved on him. They were called together by the committee of management for the purpose of coming to a resolution for raising the additional capital required for prosecuting the mine with vigour. This it was proposed to accomplish by the issue of the reserved shares, for which, he assured the meeting, on the authority of Mr. Scott, their colleague, 25 per share is offered in the market; and under those circumstances they confidently trusted that the whole of the 1000 shares would be taken up by May 23, as the reserve placed on them was but a trifling consideration, with such brilliant prospects as they had of soon becoming self-supporting, and shortly after being placed in a dividend-paying condition. The Chairman then read the report of the directors of the company, as follows:—

The directors have been induced to call the present special meeting, in accordance with the expressed wish of the shareholders at the last general meeting—viz., "That the remaining 1000 shares should not be issued without the existing shareholders having the first preference of taking them at such premium as might be obtainable from other parties." The directors have now the pleasure of stating, that so considerable is the improved appearance of the mine, that, on a recent inspection, two captains of neighbouring mines, a mine agent, and others, gave it as their opinion that the reserved shares should not be issued under 25 per share; but the directors, wishing to avoid any appearance of puffing the property, and having every confidence that this will be the last occasion for calling up any additional capital for the development of the property, and that the proceeds of the present issue will amply provide for all necessary workings, until the mine will be in a condition to maintain itself, feel fully justified in proposing that the present issue shall be at the rate of 25 per share. Also, that the actual shareholders shall have the preference until May 23 inst. And such shares as are not paid for and taken by that date, the directors shall be authorised to dispose of to the public, in such way as they may think best, although not at a lower price than 25 per share.

The directors beg to refer the shareholders for any further information to the last reports of Capt. Spargo, dated May 7 inst., and one from their secretary, who has twice visited the mine since the last meeting.

A report from Capt. Spargo, the agent of the mine, was next read, detailing the recent discoveries of deposits of copper in driving to the 40 at Hobler's shaft westward, where they are continually breaking rich copper ore. A lengthened conversation took place on the subject, after which the reports of the directors and Capt. Spargo were received and adopted, on the motion of Mr. J. CHAFF, seconded by Mr. BEAUCHAMPEL.

In conformity with the recommendation in the director's report, a resolution was then proposed by Mr. LESTER, and seconded by Mr. INGHAM, to the effect that, the directors be authorised to issue the 1000 reserved shares at 25 each; and that such number as shall not be taken on or before May 23 by existing shareholders, should be offered for public competition, at a price not under 25 per share.—Carried unanimously. Votes of thanks were then passed to the Chairman, committee of management, and secretary, who were severally complimented for the zeal and ability with which they managed the affairs of the company.

It was stated the meeting that 350 of the shares had already been applied for, and that they expected to sample 10 tons of copper ore in June.

COPIAPO MINING COMPANY.

The half-yearly meeting of this association was held at the offices, No. 2, New Broad-street, yesterday.—Mr. JOHN LABOUCHE in the chair.

After the usual preliminary proceedings, the following report was read:—Referring to the report to the annual meeting in November last, the directors stated, that from the improved prospects of the mines they anticipated having a favourable financial statement to present on this occasion; and they obtained the sanction of the shareholders to extend the operations of the company by the erection of smelting works in Chili.

It now devolves upon the directors to report upon the proceedings, at home and abroad, during the past six months.

With regard to the landed estates, the directors have already fully acquainted the shareholders with the importance and increasing value, as well as the revenue derived from that portion which has been rented.

The directors have recently received from the parties who are entrusted with the company's extensive property called "Hornito," a very interesting and full account of the progress they have made in improving it, as well as the income derived during the year ending December last. The following is an extract from their communication:—

"We have constructed the cottages in Portero Seco, in front of Perex establishment; we have repaired the put in good condition the house of the estate; we have constructed a rambo and stone at the gate entering the estate; we have cleared the pastures of bushes and weeds generally; we have constructed and placed more than 300 irrigating valves, with their frames, for the proper distribution of the water, thus economising much labour; we have cleared out the irrigating channels, and avoid the loss of water; we have planted 6000 vines and 500 fig trees, all of which are in a very flourishing state; and, lastly, we have cut 4000 quintals fire-wood, and ploughed, harrowed, and sowed 25 cuadras of Locorne."

The improved appearance of the copper mine led the directors to express a very sanguine opinion of an excellent result being secured from working that property, and the following statement will prove the correctness of their views, the produce for the six months being:—

	Tons ore.	Per cent.	Tons copper.
July	131-23	17-26	22-65
August	161-21	16-70	26-93
September	157-37	17-88	28-15
October	181-89	18-70	34-03
November	231-04	21-80	51-02
December	203-18	21-60	50-48
Together	1070-91	19-91	213-27

whilst the produce for the 12 months ending June 30 last was only 232 tons copper. In the silver mines, the changes have been unimportant. The Al Fin Hallada continues to yield mineral, but in less quantities than formerly. The Republicano is also remunerative; but the other silver mines in which the company is interested are still unproductive.

With regard to the financial position of the company, the directors have received the following remittances since November last:—

Per Albert Franklin, copper ores, estimated to produce, nett	£5000 0 0
Remittances on account of ores sold in Chili	3000 0 0 = £8000 0 0
From which they have to deduct:—	
Balance at profit and loss account, June 30 last	£610 4 4
Deficiency on cargo per Scotland	900 12 9
Payments in England	1302 17 7 = 2513 14 8

Leaving available balance on Jan 1.....£2186 5 4 which enables the directors to pay a dividend of 10s. per share for the half-year ending Dec. 31 last.

The directors have the satisfaction of stating that, after some delay, they secured the services of Senor Don Nicolas Narango, to take charge of the mining interests of the company, and he arrived out in Copiapo in January last. The reports received from him mention that the rich course of ore had failed at Checo, but that he anticipated from the future workings in depth favourable results. That the "Alfin Hallada" still contained some silver ore from the former discoveries, and the prospects were favourable. The Republicano Mine was paying its expenses, and looking well; and Senor Narango expected to be able to make arrangements for working with advantage the gold mine called Desembordador d'Oro. The other silver mines in which the company hold shares, he has recommended to be stopped, as not presenting sufficient promise to be further prosecuted.

The directors quite approve of the abandonment of these unproductive mines, which in the past year have entailed a loss to the company not far short of 4000l., and which has been paid out of the profits derived from other branches of the concern.

The directors being fully impressed with the importance of erecting works for reducing the Checo copper ores to metal, and their views being confirmed by Senor Narango, did not hesitate to make the necessary arrangements for at once dispatching the materials required to Chili, and to engage a competent person to erect the furnace. They have now to report that a piece of land most advantageously situated at Caldera, has been secured on favourable terms, that all the materials have been dispatched, and a person who has had the superintendence and erection of smelting works abroad, also left in February, and would arrive with the first portion of the materials in the course of the present month. The directors, therefore, expect in the course of the year to learn that the smelting has made satisfactory progress.

The directors have now to refer to a subject of much importance to this company. Mr. Wheelwright has been in communication with the directors of the Copiapo Railway, with the view of obtaining from them a concession of their powers to construct a railway from the terminus of the present line (which is in the estate of Hornito) to the mining district of Chanarillo; and Mr. Wheelwright has offered to construct this line forthwith, having already a large portion of the capital subscribed; and he has proposed to the directors, as it will be a tram-road, the working should be undertaken by the Copiapo Mining Company, the Hornito estate being well adapted to pasture the mules necessary for the traffic of the road. Should an arrangement be made, it is confidently expected that the revenue to be thus derived from the estates alone will insure the shareholders of this company a large and permanent revenue on the capital.

With regard to the proposed railway, the directors feeling that high confidence in Mr.

Wheelwright, and in the opinions he has expressed of the importance of the undertaking, as well as in the promise it holds forth of being a highly-profitable concern, have not hesitated to associate themselves in the management thereof, and intend taking a considerable amount in it, and, without hesitation, they strongly recommend the project to their shareholders.

With regard to the future, the directors have to remark, that having decided upon curtailing the expenditure of the company by the abandonment of the unproductive silver mines, they can now look forward with greater certainty to better results, inasmuch as the landed estates will duly improve under the vigilance of the parties who are entrusted with the management thereof, and an increased income may fairly be calculated on.

With respect to the mines in operation, the directors' views are, that Checo, which at the present shallow depth has produced such large quantities of rich mineral, will become a very profitable mine, under the superintendence of Senor Narango, whose opinion is that the great wealth of the mine is to be found in depth; and the directors look forward to the smelting operations for deriving the full benefit from the produce, as hitherto the ore has been sold on the spot at a great sacrifice.

The Alfin Hallada and Republicano Silver Mines, are productive as well as profitable, and are likely to improve, according to accounts recently received.

On the whole, therefore, the directors consider the aspect of the company's affairs to be encouraging, and it affords them much satisfaction in declaring on this occasion a dividend of 10s. per share.

The CHAIRMAN stated, that in their superintendence they had a good man. Mr. Wheelwright and his friends had proposed to take shares in the projected railway to the amount of 50,000l.; this would enable them to prosecute their work with great success. The smelting works, when adequately developed, would no doubt pay a remunerative profit.

Mr. WHEELWRIGHT said, the works, when properly developed and economically managed, would give more than profitable returns.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman and directors, when the meeting separated.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND.

The twenty-third annual meeting was held at the company's house, Bishopsgate-street, on Thursday.—Mr. JOHN FECTOR LAURIE in the chair.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting, and the following report of the directors:—

In the performance of the duty imposed upon them by the constitution of the bank, the directors have now the pleasure of placing before the proprietors their 23d annual report. The directors have to state, since last meeting they have established three branches—at Hanley, Salisbury, and Conway. On investigation, an eligible opening for another bank appeared to the directors to be presented at each of these places, which it was important also should be occupied, in order to strengthen the position, and give facilities to the operations of contiguous branches. The progress made by these branches during the short time they have been in operation justifies the expectation of great success.

The combined retrospect of 1855 is, upon the whole, of a satisfactory character. Notwithstanding the great struggle which went forward in Eastern Europe, and all the disturbing circumstances incidental to a state of war, the commerce and trade of the country experienced little interruption or derangement. It is true that the imports and exports of last year were not upon the same gigantic scale as in 1853 and 1854; the trade with Russia, of course, was suspended, and that with America and our colonies considerably curtailed, but these drawbacks have been to some extent counterbalanced by the increased trade with the markets in the East developed by some speculation; but the continued drain of bullion was met by a constant influx of gold from Australia, credit was maintained, and the year closed without any serious mercantile or monetary embarrassment. The high value of money has, no doubt, considerably lessened the profits of the commercial and trading community for 1855. From the same cause that year, to the banking interests, has been one of undoubted prosperity. The following is the result of the year's operations:—

Jan. 1.—Rest, or undivided profits, at Dec. 31, 1854, as exhibited at annual meeting in May, 1855	£189,390 13 8
Less bonus declared and paid in 1855, out of this amount	27,000 0 0
Reserved fund, set apart in Government securities	162,390 13 8
Dec. 31.—Nett profits of 1855, after making allowance for bad and doubtful debts	84,304 12 9
Total	247,195 6 3
Deduct dividend on company's stock for 1855	36,000 0 0
Leaving rest, or undivided profits, Dec. 31, 1855	£211,195 6 3

The directors have the satisfaction to announce to the proprietors that it is their intention to declare a bonus of 8 per cent. on the company's stock, to be paid along with the usual half-yearly dividend, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, in July next, after payment of the bonus the reserve fund will stand at £175,195 6s. 3d.

In consequence of the large increase in the bank's business of late years, of which the proprietors have had substantial evidence, the directors for some time have contemplated an increase in the bank's capital, but postponed any measure of the kind so long as the war and severe monetary pressure continued. With peace restored, and a prospect of an easier money market, and of an increasing trade, the directors consider that the time has arrived when this desirable object can be accomplished with advantage to the bank and to the proprietors.

Accordingly, the directors, in virtue of the powers already vested in them, propose to increase the bank's capital by a fresh issue of 15,000 small shares of 20s. each, to be offered at par to the proprietors whose names stand upon the share register, on the 21st June next (when the books close for July dividends), in the following proportions:—One new small share to be allotted to the holder of every large old share. Two new small shares to be allotted to the holder of every seven old small shares. (And in order to avoid fractional shares).

The holder of three old small shares only, or having a remainder of three shares, shall be allotted one new share.

The holder of six old small shares only, or having a remainder of six, shall be allotted two new shares.

The distribution will absorb about 13,000 of the number of shares to be issued, and the remainder of the shares it is intended to issue hereafter to the customers and supporters of the company's branches, at a premium to be regulated by the market price, and in the way best calculated to increase its local influence and connection.

Upon the new issue, 10s. will be called up on each share, as follows:—An instalment of 5s. to be paid on or before the 31st July next, and the remaining instalment of 5s. to be paid after this measure has been fully carried out, the bank's paid-up capital will amount to 600,000l.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the reason for proposing the increase of capital was not from the want of money, but a desire to increase the business, and the additional security, by adding to the number of proprietors; and it must be most satisfactory to all that they were in a position to declare a bonus of 8 per cent. on the company's stock, to be paid with the usual half-yearly dividend, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

The report was then unanimously adopted, amidst much applause.—Major Moore, Messrs. Edward Stewart and John Kingston, were re-elected directors.

A PROPRIETOR moved that the best thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Daniel Robertson, and the other managers and officers of the company, for the able manner in which they had discharged their duties.

A PROPRIETOR suggested that they ought to be rewarded with something more substantial than a vote of thanks. (Hear.)

The CHAIRMAN was happy to find such an unanimous feeling expressed by the shareholders, but he had great pleasure in informing the meeting that the board had anticipated their wishes. (Cheers.) They had received something more substantial than a vote of thanks.—The resolution was then carried unanimously.

Mr. ROBERTSON, in acknowledging the compliment, said there was a great anxiety throughout the entire for the interest of the shareholders; and it was most gratifying to them to place before them such results as upon the present occasion. Some had grown grey in the service of the company, but they yet hoped to live to see it even in a more prosperous condition. (Cheers.)

A cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors terminated the proceedings.

ANGLO-FRENCH SCREW CLIFFER COMPANY.—The prospectus is now issued of the previously-announced French Screw Steam Shipping Company, under the title of Societe Generale des Clippers Français, headed by a list of official and influential French names, of the highest character, as the "Council in Paris," and by a "Committee of Supervision in England," of undoubted commercial standing and maritime experience. This company starts with a capital of 800,000l., in 200,000 shares of 4l. each. It is not said what proportion of these shares may be allocated here, but we understand very much less than will be absorbed in Paris; so that our British commerce will benefit in a corresponding degree with the amount of foreign capital to be so employed in steam communication with our Eastern possessions, at the moment when the railway system in the East Indian presidencies has begun to open up increased means and new sources of trade, with the speedier transit of goods and passengers, interior and external—landward and seaward. France, however, will have her full share of the advantages arising from this international undertaking, since, although Southampton will be the port of departure from Europe, Havre will be the starting point, and the Ile de Reunion (Bourbon), one of the principal places to be touched at en route outward and homeward. The present enterprise will, moreover, benefit largely by the previous experience of the General Screw Company, and the commanders of the eight splendid ships purchased from that company, with which the new undertaking will commence; and with these thoroughly-tested screw clippers, ready for their work, as delivered over for immediate employment, no delay will occur in the process of ship-building, and, consequently, the money subscribed for this extensive and well-founded operation will be at once made available for the accumulation of returns, and the production of dividends. In short, we look upon the establishment of this company with the confident anticipation of its commercial success, and as one of the strongest bonds of unity that can be devised for mutualising the maritime and mercantile interests of England and France.

UTILISATION OF SLAGS.—Inventions calculated to become of universal benefit should always claim the greatest consideration; and as in the utilisation of slags a useless and cumbersome matter is rendered profitable, any proposition for accomplishing the object is interesting. The *Avenir* of St. Didier announces the discovery of a process for converting slags into matters of great value, almost without expense, labour, extra material, or waste. The inventors have been crowned with the greatest success, and samples of the produce have been declared quite applicable to the artistic and industrial purposes for which they are intended. We are not at present authorised to give further details, but shall do so immediately the patentees are secured. We understand it is proposed to sell the English patent; and, from the immense quantity of slags, now worse than useless, which could be annually turned to profit, it is anticipated that it would speedily come into general use. One portion of the process is to be applied to agricultural purposes; and, with a view to determine the result, experiments on an extensive scale are now being conducted in the department of the Meuse.

ON ERRORS PROPAGATED IN SCIENTIFIC WORKS.—No. I.

BY EVAN HOPKINS, C.E., F.R.S.

"We should always distinguish facts from assumptions," says Dr. Faraday. "The experience of past ages is sufficient to show us the wisdom of such a course, and considering the constant tendency of the mind to rest on an assumption, and forget that it is an assumption, in such cases it becomes a prejudice, and inevitably interferes more or less with a clear-sighted judgment." The recent discussions in the *Times*, and other periodicals, on the moon's motion, fully confirm the above remarks of Dr. Faraday, and prove that, an unwarrantable assertion, supported by prejudice, and the sanction of scientific teachers, has a greater weight on the minds of ordinary readers than a positive demonstrative fact.

Mr. Jelinger Symonds, one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, wrote a letter to the *Times*, expressing his surprise that philosophers should maintain that the moon turned on her own axis, and that such an error should be taught in our schools, in opposition to the fact of her non-rotation. Had Mr. Symonds been wrong in his conclusions, it might have been supposed that our philosophers and their disciples would have endeavoured to correct him by means of relevant scientific reasoning, instead of which, the replies have been completely void of argument,—merely assertions and abuses, and totally unworthy of the name of science, and the age we live in. Unfortunately for the progress of practical and true science, a great deal of what is taught in schools is acquired by mere routine; and by forcing the assent against the conviction of the judgment. Students thus trained become so much accustomed to old and incorrect notions as to retain them as facts, and by degrees they become as obstinate and dogmatic as their professors, and thus errors are propagated from one generation to another, in spite of the evidences of the senses. It is a well-known fact that the moon, in revolving round the earth, always presents the same face to us. Astronomers state, that "because she presents the same face to the centre of her orbit, she must rotate once on her own axis."

Those who understand the true meaning of the terms "rotation" and "revolution," must observe that the above conclusion is contrary to the demonstrative fact. "Rotation" means the act of turning on a centre situated within the moving body; and "revolution" the act of turning round a centre placed outside the moving body. A body in the act of rotating constantly changes its face to the surrounding space, and cannot constantly present the same part to any fixed point; but a body simply revolving, although it changes its face also to the surrounding space, yet it continues to present the same face to the centre of revolution. Hence, revolving bodies, like the governor-balls of a steam-engine, cranks, pins, teeth of cog-wheels, &c., must necessarily present the same parts to the centre of revolution; and, under such circumstances, cannot possibly rotate; yet, it is stated, in the very face of this self-evident fact, that "because the moon presents always the same face to the earth, she must rotate once on her own axis." This groundless assertion is obstinately maintained by our mathematicians and astronomers, in direct opposition to the laws of dynamics.

THE COAL MINES INSPECTION ACT.

[FROM OUR DERBYSHIRE CORRESPONDENT.]

We have had frequent opportunities of observing the activity of Mr. CHARLES MORTON, the Government Inspector of Coal Mines for Yorkshire, and to applaud the energy which he has displayed in the enforcement of a due and proper observance of the new laws for the better regulation of coal mines, and the prevention of accidents. Before the enactment was made, it was a common complaint among those who were desirous of doing all they could to prevent the destruction of life in coal mines, that there was not some legislative power to compel the miners to adopt those measures of precaution which had been wisely provided for them. It is not enough in a miner neglecting ordinary measures of safety, but it is infinitely worse in a coalmaster omitting to provide those means and appliances necessary for the safety of his workmen. The law has now laid hold of those through whose default accidents may happen, and we are glad to call special attention to a case brought by Mr. Morton, on Tuesday, at Huddersfield, against Mr. Henry Ellis, of the firm of Ellis and Armistead, of the Kirkstall Colliery, Cumberworth. On April 19 an accident occurred in the pit, which resulted in the death of two persons, and the entire jury thought the proprietors were to blame. There were six charges preferred against the defendant—viz.: 1. Non-establishment of general rules.—2. Non-observance of them.—3. Unfenced shafts and air-pits.—4. Unfenced working and pumping pits, when not at work.—5. No indicator to show position of load in the shaft.—6. No steam-gauge, water-gauge, or safety-valve. Mr. Ellis pleaded guilty through his solicitor, who in extenuation urged that the rules had only reached him in March last, and that since then he had been doing all he could to bring them into operation. Whose fault was it that he had not procured them earlier? The magistrates convicted the defendant in a penalty of 5l. each on the two first charges, and 1l. each on the remaining four, making fines 14l., in addition to expenses.

THE NEW RATING OF MINES BILL.

The following is a copy of the petition in course of signature in Liskeard, and at Messrs. WATSON and CUELL'S, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill:—

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The humble petition of the undersigned adventurers, and others interested in mines, in the parish of St. Cleer, in the county of Cornwall,

Sheweth, That your petitioners are informed that a bill has been brought into your hon. House, entitled the "Rating of Mines Bill, 1856," which, if passed into a law, will throw upon the occupiers of the mines in the above parish more than one-half of all parochial rates, whereas, at present, they are not liable to pay any part thereof.

That in the aforesaid parish of St. Cleer, which contains the most extensive mines in the eastern part of the county of Cornwall, the rates since the mines have been opened have not increased in amount, showing that mining has not brought any additional burdens on the parish.

That in the mines of the said parish, as usual in other parts of Cornwall, a fund is contributed, nominally by the miners, but really by their employers, for providing medical attendance in sickness for the workmen and their families, and support for the miners in case of accident.

That your petitioners, when they took leases of the mines, agreed to give the present royalties, with the knowledge that no rates were payable in respect of such royalties, and they do not find any clause in the proposed bill exempting existing leases from its operation.

That your petitioners object to the rating of mines, as tending to discourage a national branch of industry, in which the chances of success are already sufficiently small. Many mines have to pay the royalties, which it is proposed to assess for rates, and at the same time are being worked at a great loss to the adventurers, to whom, therefore, the amount of such rates would be so much additional loss.

Your petitioners also submit to your hon. House that the royalties or dues of the mine being a part of the mineral reserved by the lord of the soil, he allowing the lessees the remainder for their expenses and profit, is, in fact, a portion of the freehold and disposed of, and ought not to be assessed for rates, as if it were a rent for the use of a freehold.

Your petitioners, therefore, pray your hon. House to refuse your assent to the said bill, and your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

RATING OF MINES TO THE POOR.—At South Wheal Frances meeting, on Monday, a resolution was passed to the effect that circulars should be sent to the agents of the different mines, urging the importance of convening a meeting of mine proprietors, to be held on an early day, for the purpose of agreeing to a petition to Parliament against the Bill for Rating Mines to the Poor. We hope that this appeal will be responded to with spirit and energy.

MINES TAXATION.—As one instance of the amount already contributed by mining companies towards the taxation of the country, we may allude to the Devon Great Consols. In the annual balance-sheet, just issued, we find—Poor-rate and other taxes at Tavistock, 1282l.; income and property tax, one year to Michaelmas, 3152l. 4s.—4434l. 4s. per annum.

THE SCOTCH MINERS' STRIKE.—This unhappy struggle, the most severe and wide-spread which has ever been known in Scotland, continues without the slightest prospect of amicable adjustment, although there are indications that the men are getting worn out by privation and long endurance.

MR. CHARLES MANBY having accepted the office of secretary to Mr. ROBERT STEPHENSON, C.E.—an appointment in every way adapted to his talent and experience—the Institution of Civil Engineers will shortly lose the assistance of its very efficient secretary. The members of the Institution are well acquainted with the aid afforded by the indefatigable energy and vast practical knowledge of that gentleman, who was ever foremost in rendering assistance to all applicants, and in obtaining the information at times required to elucidate the different papers brought before the Institution. While regretting the loss his absence from his late occupation must inevitably entail, we may, notwithstanding, hope Mr. MANBY will prove as successful in his new position as his merits entitle him to expect; and we may also congratulate Mr. STEPHENSON on having secured a secretary worthy of so distinguished a principal, and one so competent for the fulfilment of the responsible duties he will have committed to his care.

GREAT GLOBE, LEICESTER-SQUARE.—We have visited with much gratification the Oriental Gallery, which will be opened to the public on Monday next, at the Great Globe, Leicester-square. This gallery comprises a series of excellently executed figures, which exhibit the costumes and habits of the races of people inhabiting the countries between Bulgaria and Afghanistan, and we strongly recommend to our friends a participation in the satisfaction which we have experienced. The Diorama tour from Blackwall to Balaklava, in the same establishment, is depicted with great artistic skill, and will almost place non-tourists on a par with their more excursive friends.

BRITISH MINES.

HOLMEBUSH. In the 145 south, on the west side of the lead lode, there is a change to notice. There are about 7 or 8 fms. to drive to intersect the copper lode. In the end driving north, on this same lode, towards the north copper lode, is producing a little silver-lead ore, but not of much value: the ground is favorable for driving. The lode in the 145 east has not been taken down. The eastern crosscut since there can be no doubt of its being a good productive lode. The eastern crosscut continues to yield 2 tons of ore per fm., worth 10¢ per fm. The lode in the 145 west of the lead lode, continues productive as it proceeds west, and is still producing 1 ton per fm., worth \$8, 8¢ per ton. In the stopes in the back of this level the ore is yielding 1½ ton of ore per ft. of dip, intersected with silver-lead ore, saving work and light branch, of 1 ft. of dip, worth 1 ton per ton. The lode in 152 south, on the west side of the 145 south, on the Flanjiak lode, is producing full 1 ton of ore per foot worth 16¢ per ton. In the different cross-cuts, namely, 152 south, 150 north, 163 north, a fair prospect is being made.

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METAL MARKET, London, May 2, 1856.

† Thirty days' credit, and free on board at Rotterdam. The per centage of peroxide is about 60 for Nassau lump, 64 to 65 for Giessen, and 70 and 73 for ground.

REMARKS.—Scarcely any variation has taken place in the prices of

NEW YORK, APRIL 24.—In the metal market there are no alterations of moment to notice. New sheathings in copper are saleable at 22c.; yellow metal 26c., six months. Most descriptions of iron are heavy; Scotch-pigs lower, and may be quoted at \$35.50 and \$31, six months. English bars, of which the stock is light, are firm, 100 tons, common, were taken at \$2.50. For lead the demand is inactive, but rates are un-

balance of 1657. 14s. 6d. carried to the credit of next account. Messrs. G. Batters, W. Bostock, and W. White were appointed a committee of management. Captain A. Francis reported that a fine course of ore had been discovered in Woodlans' vein from 2 to 3 ft. wide, yielding 2 to 3 tons per fm., with indications of further improvement. On the whole, the prospects of the mine are considered such as to warrant a belief in increased returns.

[illegible]

At Genorama Mine meeting, on the 2d inst., the accounts showed—last audit, \$323; mine cost, \$864. 57. 74.; materials, 489. 17. 93.—\$1000. 14. 67.—Total covered, 1242. 75. 67. Ore sold at 10¢ per ton, 135. 24. 00. Balance against adventure, 1732. 11. 63. Cnsts. Oliver O. Trewen and Co. reported that the winze sinking below the 46, on Sarah's lode, had met success since the last meeting, being 2½ feet wide, worth at least 3c; tone of ore fair. They hoped to exceed the usual quantity of ore next sampling, and consider the prospects throughout the mine very cheering.

Notices to Correspondents.

* Much inconvenience having arisen in consequence of several of the Numbers during the past year being out of print, we recommend that the Journal should be regularly filed on receipt: it then forms an accumulating useful work of reference.

MATHER'S BORING APPARATUS.—Sir: In your Journal of June last I read a most interesting account of a paper upon an improved boring apparatus, read by Mr. Collin Mather. I shall feel much obliged if you can inform me where I can see one in operation, being of opinion that it might be valuable in sinking winzes.—An Old Subscriber: *Cambridge, May 7.*

CONDENSING LEAD FUMES.—Mr. W. Young, Bathurst, Devonshire, has written to the editor of the *Journal* (April 26), on hearing further particulars from him.

MINING INVESTMENT COMPANY.—Sir: If Mr. Evan Hopkins declines proceeding with this company, will not Mr. R. Offord, or some other party concerned, carry it out? Surely, so desirable a project should not be allowed quietly to drop. I know several gentlemen who are merely awaiting its coming into actual working, to join with their capital and influence.—J. J.: *May 6.*

RATING OF MINES.—“A. B.”—In last week's *Journal* we inserted a tolerably clear explanation of the enactments in the bill recently introduced by Mr. Kendall for the rating of mines. Notwithstanding all the professions made by the Cornish Members, that it was only just that such rates should be paid by the lords upon the dues, we always feared there was a counter move, with a view to saddle the adventurer with this unjust impost, and the result proves that we were right. According to this draft bill, after the 29th Sept. next, the occupiers of all mines shall be rated to the relief of the poor, such rating to be based on the amount of dues paid to the lord during twelve months, ending on the previous 23rd March. In cases where a mine is worked by the owner, the assessment shall be made on such sum as would accrue, had the mine been held on lease; and where neither would have been liable but for the passing of the Act, the assessment is to be equally divided, share and share alike. Thus, should this bill be permitted to pass into a law, the adventurers will have to bear the whole burden, in many cases payable out of the capital intended for the development of the property; while the lord, who does not risk a single shilling, escapes without contribution, except in those few isolated cases where the rate is to be divided. The measure is calculated to do immense injury, and we trust that a stir will be made by the whole mining community, from Northumberland to the Land's End, and that petitions will flow in a stream sufficiently powerful to stay the hands of the Legislature, and compel them to pass a measure more in accordance with justice, and more subservient to the interests of this great staple industry of the kingdom.

FEDERATION OF MINES.—“Alpha” should write to the purser, or attend the meetings, when he has information if what he has informed be correct or not. An anonymous communication is not likely to have the supposed effect.

ASTURIAN MINING COMPANY.—Sir: The annual meeting of this company has been held in Paris, and our sole surviving director, Mr. K. Mackenzie, has returned to London; yet we have no account of the proceedings; the agent of the agent has not yet got the report; and we are quite in the dark as to the manœuvres of Senor Grimaldi. Whether he has taken possession of the estates in the Asturias, or is endeavouring to dispose of them to a Credit Mobilier, I am at a loss to imagine. Through your instrumentality, I trust either Mr. Mackenzie or Senor Grimaldi will condescend to afford some information of a property on which 200,000l. of British capital has been sacrificed.—R. M.: *St. Petersburg, May 9.*

RENEWABLE AND PENOWEN MINING COMPANY.—“G. M.” (Birmingham).—We are unable to obtain any information about this company, or whether it is even in existence. If our correspondent would forward us a list of the names composing the committee of management, we might be able to throw some light upon the matter.

T. B. C. (Brighton). All the proprietors are liable who have signed the deed. The solicitor and the other directors, who are not named in the deed, it would be useless to proceed against: the one has lately gone through the Bankruptcy Court, while the other is known to be insolvent—so much so, that when at the mine, for absolute necessities, he was forced to contract debts, which are still unpaid.

CALSTOCK CONSOLS AND OKEL TOR.—Sir: Having observed, in your *Journal* of April 26, certain remarks reflecting on the management of these mines, arising from a communication addressed to you, I would beg to correct any erroneous impression arising from such a communication. It was stated that the mines had been inspected by Capt. Pearce, who disagreed with the manner of working. Now, so far from such being the case, he fully concurred in the plan adopted for working; and, I may also state, his report of Calstock Consols, together with the report of the late Capt. Robins, of the other mine, and my own, were precisely alike as regarded the present and future operations. I may also state that no two mines in the country are managed with more economy than are Calstock Consols and Okel Tor. Holding a number of shares in both mines, my only desire is to see them become profitable, and I believe that this can only be attained by unanimity amongst the shareholders, the contrary course having the effect of unfairly depreciating the interest of every one connected with them.—W. B. COLLETON: *May 8.*

We are informed that the notice in our last *Journal*, as to the stoppage of the Drighthill Mine, was incorrect: the rumour arose from the discharge of a few men, whose services were no longer required.

INGENIOUS MINING MACHINERY.—Sir: In crossing Lambdown, yesterday, my attention was much struck in seeing a machine set to work on the Caroline Wheel Prosper Mine for the purpose of drawing the stuff from underground. The machine is worked by the horizontal rods 35 ft. from the wheel: the latter I found was performing the duty of stamping, and was precisely alike as regarded the present and future operations. I may also state that no two mines in the country are managed with more economy than are Calstock Consols and Okel Tor. Holding a number of shares in both mines, my only desire is to see them become profitable, and I believe that this can only be attained by unanimity amongst the shareholders, the contrary course having the effect of unfairly depreciating the interest of every one connected with them.—W. B. COLLETON: *May 8.*

“We should feel obliged if Capt. Williams would forward a description of his machinery, for publication in the *Journal*.”

“Junius,” on Lady Granville; “Miner,” on the Bog Lead Mine (Shropshire); and “Trim,” on Sortridge Consols, should have authenticated their letters.

FAUVILLE'S BORING APPARATUS.—Sir: Can you, or any of your correspondents, give me information as to where it may be obtained, as to Fauville's (a poor Frenchman) boring apparatus, which I am informed is much improved, after the exposition first given of it by Mr. Vigoreux, at the meeting of the British Association, at Southampton, in Sept. 1846?—JAMES EYTON: *South Molyne Collieries, near Holywell, May 8.*—[In the *Mining Journal* of Sept. 25, 1846, a very full account is given of M. Fauville's system of boring. Articles on the same subject will be found in the *Journal* of Oct. 17 and 24, Nov. 7, 11, and 28, and Dec. 12, 1846.]

A series of papers on the Slate Trade will be commenced in our next *Journal*.

WEST MARISSA MINING COMPANY.—The history of one gold mining company is merely a recapitulation of others. It would be unfair that one shareholder should bear all the expenses of an investigation; but, unfortunately, though all are ready to reap the benefits, few like to share the costs. The want of union among proprietors, where there is a loose directory, mainly helps them to oppose any enquiries being made as to their conduct or method of management.

We have received from the publishers, Messrs. Longman and Co., an *Encyclopaedia of Civil Engineering*, by Mr. Edward Grey, which will be fully noticed next week.

REPRODUCTION OF AURELIUS QUARTZ.—We have received a communication from Mr. Low, in reply to Mr. Radley's observations in last week's *Journal* (which we are bound to admit were by no means of the most courteous character), but the insertion of which, with all respect to Mr. Low, we must decline. In the progress of Mr. Low under his new patent, we shall at all times be most happy to record any facts and discoveries with which we may favour us; but with any misunderstanding between that gentleman and Mr. Radley we can have nothing further to do, and which must be settled between themselves, more particularly as the cause of the controversy originated, not with us, but with one of our evening contemporaries. We may, however, add that, in contradiction to Mr. Radley, that no lead was produced. Mr. Low states that in every instance auriferous lead was produced, yielding all the gold contained in the quartz, and from the 15 tons of quartz experimented on, 9 oz. of gold were obtained.

DYERS CASTELL MINE.—Mr. A. Ennor requests us to state that the absence of his father, on his annual tour of inspection, will prevent him replying to the communication from Capt. James Lester. On his return the matter, no doubt, will be again referred to.

AVE MARIA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—“A. O. B.” (Wincanton).—With the exception of Mr. George Burge, there are none of the directors at present in London. The company was stated to be on the Cost-book System. Mr. Kelly, the secretary, is dead; it appears that the books were in his possession, he having impounded them for a balance of salary due. Though recent decisions, as in the cases of L'Aigle d'Or and the Lake Bathurst Companies, have shown that money can be recovered, yet, in this instance, unless the responsibility could be fixed on one individual, nothing would be refunded. Some of the directors are dead, and others are either bankrupt or insolvent.

DEWON IRON ORE COMPANY.—We have heard that the directors intend shortly to decide whether selling the property shall be by auction, and the result will, no doubt, settle the question as to going on or winding-up the affairs forthwith. It would appear that proceedings cannot much longer be carried on as at present.

WALKER MINING COMPANY.—We have received a long communication from Mr. Garnham, of Virginia, in reference to the remarks in our *Journal* of March 8, which we cannot insert in *extenso*, but will quote so much of as may place his character before our readers as it is represented by his fellow-citizens:—“I take the liberty of troubling you with the perusal of a copy of a testimonial—certified to by a justice of the peace of this county—presented me a few days after my resignation. It was got up, without my knowledge, by Mr. Buford Kirtley, agent of L'Aigle d'Or Mine, and who also carries on a gold mine on his own account. The signatures are those of the most respectable influential men, being critically five or six miles of the mine. Col. Bowles, besides having been a senator, &c., carries on a gold mine at his own risk, and is an extensive landed proprietor. The Fishers have made fortunes by gold mines, and may justly be deemed the fathers of Virginian gold mining, they having been the first to begin working them. Such people, Sir, are not very likely to bear such testimony to a man who had, as you were informed, lost his situation through intemperance.” The document is from magistrates, landowners, and others, of Goodland, Fluvanna, and Louisa, bearing testimony to his character. They say:—“Mr. Garnham has been among us over two years, during which his conduct has been of the most gentlemanly description. We consider that he has been most attentive to his duties, and zealous and faithful to the interests of the Walker Mining Company; and that, to his high standing and influence among the people here may be attributed the present standing of the company. We have also regarded him as a man of good business habits.” Mr. Garnham adds:—“It has been circulated here, that my letter to you has greatly injured gold mining in this State. I certainly did not mean to convey the impression that gold mining here was not profitable, when judiciously and economically managed. There are many mines here, containing 500 or 600 acres of land, and buildings on them, which could be purchased for about 4000l., and for another 1000l. could be put in operation, and made highly remunerative: there are many mines worked by private individuals—the Fishers, for instance—at a great profit.”

SUBSCRIBERS IN AMERICA.—Our friends in America are informed that they can obtain the *Mining Journal* by ordering it from a bookseller in any of the principal towns in the United States. Mr. Trubner, of Paternoster-row, is the London agent, and sends parcels by every mail to the principal booksellers and newsagents on the other side of the Atlantic.

PRACTICAL MINING.—Sir: I am obliged to Capt. J. Spargo for his letter on this subject; still I must call his attention more especially to the question proposed—“Why a copper lode, more than two miles from granite, is not productive, and if lodes dipping into the granite are more productive than those dipping from it, and from what cause?” I am aware that the question has reference to a point of the utmost importance to the mining community, and especially as it is contended that mining is not so much a lottery as some imagine it to be. If so, there must be some law that will justify such a belief, and to which it will be wise to give publicity. I certainly anticipated a reply from such as Mr. E. Hopkins, N. Ennor, Adam Murray, and others, who take to themselves the credit of being mining authorities.—A STUDENT: *May 8.*

ANGLO-CALIFORNIAN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Sir: One remittance of 130 ozs. of gold has arrived to hand, in return for 6000l. sent out by the directors last October. When the rainy season commenced, Sir Henry Huntley told us we were to have continuous supplies. Has the water failed, or the machinery broken down? If we receive no money, he might at least forward some excuse to us. Surely these are not exhausted: we have liberally paid him during the last five years for doing nothing else. As long as we have any money, he will not desert us, but continue to amuse, as heretofore, with “small sums, ridiculous low prices, and large returns of gold.” This last, I fear, we shall never receive. Sir Henry Huntley commenced his career as a gold miner under the auspices of Mr. Luke Williams: it would have been better for the shareholders that he had vacated his post at the same period as his patron.—G. G.: *Lincoln, May 9.*

* The *MINING JOURNAL* can be procured at our office by Eleven o'clock on Saturday morning. Newsmen, therefore, can make the necessary arrangements to have the *Journal* at the several stations in time to forward by the mid-day trains, enabling many of our subscribers to receive their copies on the day of publication.

THE MINING JOURNAL

Railway and Commercial Gazette.

LONDON, MAY 10, 1856.

Whatever our law-makers may think at the present moment of the measure they would force on the country with reference to the RATING OF MINES TO THE SUPPORT OF THE POOR, they must, at the very least, be convinced that the “occupiers” have no great reason to be satisfied with their position. The bill before the House of Commons affects them too seriously to allow of any doubt being entertained as to the course it is now imperative on them to pursue. “Occupiers,” erstwhile “adventurers,” should hold meetings in every mining district of the United Kingdom, and express firmly and constitutionally their opinions. To oppose the passing of this measure is a duty they owe to the country, for whatever tends to embarrass the mining industry, as the provisions of this obnoxious bill most certainly do, is calculated to trench injuriously on the best interests of commerce, in its most extended sphere. Involving a bad precedent, the attempted legislation of Mr. KENDALL and his compères is of itself a matter for serious and general consideration, and the mining community, in arraying its energies and intelligence against it for an immediate and proximate interest, should receive upon analogous grounds the best aid and support of every department of trade throughout the kingdom. Should such a law come into existence, England will enjoy the unenviable notoriety of being the only country in the world where this species of reproductive labour is so hampered and oppressed: mining adventure being in France, Belgium, Prussia—in a word, wherever mineral resources are wrought upon—exceptionally treated with reference to local or general taxation; it is sustained rather than embarrassed and depressed. No paltry policy is permitted to assail it, nor can we withhold the expression of our astonishment and regret that in England, where the principles of the constitution are eminently such as inspire a fostering spirit through her internal government, there should be found members of our Legislature so shortsighted, obtuse, and unwise, as to frame a measure for levying an impost on a sectional industry, in itself so essentially speculative, and demanding for its successful development an outlay subject to more than ordinary risk, that, were it not for the “riches in depth” proved to exist in our mining districts, and which, when reached, repay the anxiety, expenditure, and toil of the adventurer, there would not be found a man of common prudence to enter upon the enterprise; and yet this industry is to be taxed through that division of its labour which supplies all the expenditure of capital. The impolicy of such an Act is too apparent to require more than the merest indication; while its injustice is sufficiently exhibited even in the most biased comparison which can be drawn between the existing lordship and the proposed system of occupation.

Well may the correspondents who, in the columns of the *MINING JOURNAL* have so ably defined the relative positions of the three elements of “adventure,” exclaim against the perpetration of the injustice of which this Rating Bill is an embodiment. We would ask its framers whether they would like to pay a debt twice? Whether they would tamely submit to a landlord enactment, compelling them to pay double rent for their tenements; and whether, having paid their poor-rates once, they would consider it equitable to be forced to pay them over again? We answer for them, No. Then, why, most sapient and conscientious measure-makers, do you conspire to inflict on others that which you yourselves would wince at, and object to? Do not the occupier's house and the miner's cottage, pay rates and taxes? Has not the increase of population in various districts—themselves the support through the labour they supply of the dwellers therein—been a source of local revenue to an amount greater, immeasurably, than the charge devolving from any pauperism which has resulted? Have not those wastes, barren and unproductive, which stretch in seared tracts through the mining counties, been studded with villages—the homes of peaceable thousands, by the miners' industry and intelligence; and are those thousands untaxed? If you can answer Yes, your policy is just. If you give, as you only can give, a response, No, then the sooner you withdraw your “Rating of Mines Act, 1856,” the greater credit your negative representation of the mining interest will be to yourselves, as Members of the House of Commons, and to those heedless constituencies, whose votive confidence it will be just as well not to trifle with any longer. It is never too late to return to the right path. Reconsider the matter. On the mining body devolves the duty of making such representations as shall lead to a just solution of the question. Any obstinate adherence to the policy you have adopted can only lead to the injury of British Mining, and to your own discomfiture.

That the principles of the proposed measure may be fully understood by our readers, we re-print it from our last *Journal*: it is entitled “A Bill to Amend the Law in England and Wales with reference to the Assessment of Mines (other than Coal Mines) to the Relief of the Poor,” prepared, and brought in by Mr. KENDALL, Sir CHARLES LEMON, and Mr. MICHAEL WILLIAMS.

Whereas it has been held by the courts of law that the occupiers of mines in England and Wales (other than coal mines) are not rateable to the relief of the poor, under the provisions of the Act passed in the 43rd year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, chap. 2, whilst it has been held that the lords are rateable in respect of the dues derived from such mines when derived in kind, but that they are not rateable when the dues are reserved in money, whereby some of such mines now contribute towards the relief of the poor, whilst others are altogether exempt therefrom; and it is expedient that such distinctions should no longer exist, but that the occupiers of all mines in England and Wales should contribute to the funds for the relief of the poor, and that the rating of such mines should be rendered certain and uniform: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. From and after the 25th day of September next the occupiers of all such mines in England and Wales shall be rated and assessed to all rates and assessments made for the relief of the poor in the several parishes in which such mines shall be situated, and the annual rateable value of such mines for the purpose of such assessment shall be estimated at the sum which for the year ending on the 25th day of March immediately preceding such assessment shall have accrued due to the lord for rent, royalty, toll, or dues, in respect of such mine, or the value thereof in money, where the same shall be reserved or rendered in kind; provided, nevertheless, that no rent, royalty, toll, or dues, which shall have been given up by the lord, shall be included in any such estimate: provided also, that where any mine shall be worked, either by the lord himself, or by any other persons, without any such reserved rent, royalty, toll, or dues, or where any fine, premium, or other consideration (other than a reserved rent, royalty, toll, or dues) shall have been paid or agreed to have been paid to the lord in lieu of, or in addition to, any such rent, royalty, toll, or dues, the annual rateable value of such mine shall, under such circumstances, be estimated at the amount which would under an ordinary lease or grant have accrued to the lord for rent, royalty, toll, or dues, in respect of such mine for the then previous year, to be computed, as aforesaid, at the rate usually reserved in leases or grants of mines of a similar nature, within the district in which such mine shall be situated, such district for this purpose to be considered as comprising the parish in which such mine shall be situated and the parishes immediately adjacent thereto; provided also, that no rate or assessment for the relief of the poor other than is herein provided for, shall be made or assessed either on the lord or the occupiers of any such mine in respect thereof, or the rent, royalty, toll, or dues arising therefrom.

2. Where, under any lease or grant in operation at the time of the passing of this Act, the lord shall, before the passing of this Act, have paid any rate or assessment,

or but for the provisions of this Act would be liable to be assessed to any rate for the relief of the poor, in respect of the royalty, toll, or dues, reserved by such lease or grant, it shall be lawful for the occupiers to deduct from the royalty, toll, or dues payable under any such lease or grant all sums of money which, by virtue of the provisions of this Act, shall be assessed on such occupiers in respect of such mine during the continuance of such lease or grant; and the lord shall allow such deduction in part payment thereof, provided there be no covenant or agreement to the contrary contained in any such lease or grant.

3. Where, under any lease or grant in operation at the time of the passing of this Act, neither the occupiers nor the lord would, but for the provisions of this Act, be liable to be assessed to any rate for the relief of the poor in respect of any such mine, or the rent, royalty, toll, or dues, thereby reserved, it shall be lawful for the occupiers of such mine to deduct as aforesaid from the rent, royalty, toll, or dues payable under any such lease or grant, one moiety of all sums of money which, by virtue of the provisions of this Act, shall be assessed on such occupiers in respect of such mine during the continuance of such lease or grant, provided there be no covenant or agreement to the contrary therein contained.

4. It shall not be necessary, in any such rate or assessment, to insert the names of the occupiers of any such mine, but it shall be sufficient to describe them generally, by any such rate or assessment, as “the occupiers,” and in the description of the property rated to describe the mine by the name by which it is generally known, or the local description.

5. In the construction of this Act the word “Mine” shall mean any mine, work, or operations carried on for the purpose of searching for, or rendering profitable, any metals or minerals the occupiers of which are not now liable to be rated for the relief of the poor in England and Wales; the word “Occupiers” shall mean the person or persons for the time being in any mine, or other the persons working by themselves, or their agents or workmen; the word “Lord” shall mean the owner for the time being of the metals and minerals raised in the working of any such mine before the raising thereof; and the words “Lease or Grant” shall mean any lease, grant, sett, license, or agreement, whether in writing or by parol, under which any mine shall be worked.

6. This Act may be cited as “The Rating of Mines Act, 1856.”

For many months past we have cautioned the mining interest—the interest which it is so peculiarly our province to represent, and to the progress of which we have so strenuously devoted ourselves—to view with the most unflinching energy the motions of the Cornish Members with respect to the introduction of a bill into the Legislature for the Rating of Mines to the Relief of the Poor. This bill, which we inserted in our last week's *MINING JOURNAL*, and which we again print as above, that the measure may be fully understood, is a sad proof of the infirmity of human nature, and how interest, even among the most wealthy and influential of the land, can overcome principle, when the position enables them to trample on their less fortunate brethren, and escape those contributions which it is the duty of all to bear according to their means. The bill has been introduced by Mr. KENDALL, Sir CHARLES LEMON, and Mr. MICHAEL WILLIAMS; and when we refer to the Truro meetings, comparatively only a few weeks since, the difference of the opinions expressed there, and the measure attempted to be carried out, is really astounding. Mr. MICHAEL WILLIAMS, a man who has obtained immense wealth by mining and the produce of mines, has philosophically declared that no impost for the relief of the poor ought to be levied on the adventurer who found the necessary capital for the development of the mineral wealth of the country, but that justice demanded that if a scheme of rating were adopted, it ought to be—and such a principle would ever advocate—on the dues paid by the lords.

Mr. KENDALL was not quite so sanguine in his expression on the subject, although he, too, supported a similar line of argument. Sir CHARLES LEMON, Bart.—what shall we say of Sir CHARLES LEMON? the man who for the best part of half a century, has identified himself with the mining population, sympathised with them in their difficulties, rejoiced with them in their successes, his purse and his heart ever open with assistance and advice. That such an individual should be found taking part against miners' cause is, indeed, to be lamented; but we trust, and we have faith in the energies of all classes of Englishmen, that they will unite as man, and again defeat, as they have before been defeated, the clique who would reduce this present high staple industry of Great Britain to a rate chandler's shop interest,—the laughing-stock of the world.

We have done our duty in calling on the mining interest to rise as man, and defeat this unjust, yet suicidal measure; and have done this, it gives us great satisfaction in observing that the people of Derbyshire are up and doing, and determined to defend their rights against all who would flit them from them. At an influential meeting, at the Derby, on Monday, Mr. BURGONNE set held in his hand no less than three bills which had been introduced into Parliament within 12 months to alter the ancient customs of mining, which had been established for centuries. It was necessary to guard this staple trade of the country from anything that might unnecessarily or injuriously interfere with its progress. The speaker then entered into a brief history of the lead mine, and showed that, at a trial before Lord MANSFIELD, in 1763, it was decided that lead mines should be exempt from rating: he remarked on the advantage taken by the Cornish lords when the dues were paid in money to evade the assessment, while the true basis of all rating should be based on all property at its real value. In the High Peak of Derbyshire, according to ancient custom, the purchaser of the fee simple of the land had the right to the minerals, which belonged to the first discoverer, and he was his for ever, on payment of 1-13th to the QUEEN. While the people of Derbyshire were faithful to the laws, and cheerfully paid their rates, numerous lords of Cornwall and elsewhere, apparently by common consent, evaded their payment by taking their dues in money. Mr. CAVENDISH, Sir J. PAXTON, and Mr. HADFIELD, staunch friends to the measure were determined to muster all their force, and do their utmost to prevent the bill passing into a law. Mr. CAVENDISH is quite sanguine that it will prove another great failure; but it is only by energy and combination all the mining districts that the measure can be confidently defeated, the best interests of mining secured, in the unsettled state of things.

A question has been suggested to us which we think would puzzle the advocates of this bill, this essence of justice emanating from the immaculate House of Commons—As copper ore, when dressed, is a manufactured article, why should not the article, when wholly manufactured in the hands of the smelter, be taxed also? We should like to have the question put to Mr. MICHAEL WILLIAMS in the House of Commons, and hear his answer.

In a former Number of the *MINING JOURNAL* we have noticed, with much gratification, the establishment of a *MINING SCHOOL* at Bristol, in connection with the recently-founded *Trades' School* in Nelson-street, and we are happy in being able to state that there is every prospect of complete success. Already 12 mining pupils regularly attend, in addition to which there are 50 in the *Trades' School*; and it has been arranged that the mining schoolmaster, Mr. MART, shall meet the overseers of the district collieries on Saturdays, when not engaged at the school, to impart information on mapping, dialling, ventilation, &c., &c., so as to raise the standard of education among this important class of mine operatives. A meeting was held on the 7th inst., in the Broadmead Rooms, for the purpose of explaining to the working classes the principles of trade schools. The chair was taken by the Dean, Dr. GILBERT ELLIOTT, and there were present the Rev. Canon MOSELEY, Dr. LYON PLAYFAIR, HERBERT WORTH, Esq., HANDELL COSSHAM, Esq., and many other gentlemen. They have taken a leading interest in the establishment of the schools.

The Chairman having opened the business of the evening, the Rev. Canon MOSELEY said he had been for so many years connected with the object of elementary instruction, and had devoted himself so much to the animation of the state of education in the schools attended by the children of the working classes, that he thought it would not be considered presumptuous in him to address them. The small proportion of the children of the working classes who attended school was remarked upon; and 5,000,000 children in England and Wales, between 3 and 15 years of age, less than 2,000,000 were at school, and only 600,000 at work; and could the working classes expect to realise the blessings of education under such circumstances? He impressed upon the working people to be more alive to the subject, and to give their children those advantages of education now so liberally provided for them.

Mr. HANDELL COSSHAM confined his remarks principally to the *Trades' School*; he said he believed the feeling of the working classes was much indifference to education, as that they had a belief in their heads the euphoric. He believed the best way to get this out of their heads was to show them that, by attending the schools, their children would be taught what would be useful in the future. The greatest obstacle to education was dissipated habits; and they would never get the working classes educated until they got rid of that vice. There was no opportunity in which men could engage which required so much exercise of the mind and skill of man as mining, and it was this interest which had made the country so commercially great. In this little island we had typical the geological formations in the world, and had something like 10 square miles of coal fields already known. There was no other

the world with so much mineral wealth. England produced three times more coal than all the rest of the world; they could raise 1,000,000 tons a week, without fear of exhaustion, for at least 2000 years.

Mr. COMSTOCK then enlarged on the necessity of a better state of education, and the desirability of inducing the working men to support these excellent institutions. He confessed himself hopeful, and referred to the vast progress made in the last half century. He related some laughable anecdotes of prejudices against education. A gentleman once seriously told him, that if you taught geography to the working men, they would all be off to foreign parts; and a Somersetshire farmer, on examination before a committee of the House of Commons, said, if they allowed the rails to run all over the country, they would so frighten the cows that they would give no milk.

The meeting having been addressed by Dr. LYON PLAYFAIR, Messrs. MACKWORTH, MATTHIAS, ROY. W. BRUCE, TERRELL, and other gentlemen, separated, with a feeling of hopeful satisfaction that the institutions were making very gratifying progress.

The GREAT CRINIS MINING COMPANY held their meeting last week, and it was observed by Mr. READ, the Chairman, that although they had had a long lane, he believed they were now at the turning. The unanimity which prevailed must have been most satisfactory to all, and in future it is to be hoped it will be unnecessary to place shares in the hands of an Irish M.P., for the mere purpose of putting him in a position to come forward and abuse the managers. There is little doubt that those parties who engaged him will consider now they were in error. The proceedings generally were very encouraging; and, according to the reports, it would appear that in a short time this will become a very valuable property. Mr. MANUEL, the secretary, must have considered it a great compliment to hear from Mr. WRIGHT, a large shareholder, and one of his principal opponents, that upon examining the accounts, as auditor, he found them made up in the most straightforward manner, and that everything was done economically. It was quite evident, from the tone exhibited by all parties, that all previous disagreements were settled, and that their only object now was to work the mine for the benefit of the shareholders.

It is an anomaly, but, nevertheless, a patent fact, that the more important the change or improvement sought the greater the opposition. For years there has been a continual outcry against the monopoly of the smelters, and the gross injustice which the miner has, consequently, been compelled to submit to; yet now that there is a bona fide movement in the right direction, by the introduction of WAGSTAFFE and PERKINS'S process for separating metals by acids, a perfect storm has arisen. Clear, however, it is whence the wind blows, but it is, indeed, an ill wind which blows nobody good. The stir of opposition has roused the promoters of the new principle to increased energy, and there is now no question of the invention not being promptly brought to bear. Arrangements have been made for the erection of the necessary works in the vicinity of London, that the patent may be commercially demonstrated, and the necessary practical information be imparted by the patentees to those who may have to conduct the process at mines. It has never been the desire or intention of the company to do more than to demonstrate the method on a commercial scale, and to grant licenses; they have not desired either to purchase ore or sell metal, or in any way to enter into trading transactions. The effect they looked for is to make each miner his own producer of the metal, and to be independent of the smelter. It is opening up a new era in mining. The establishment of the works will quickly remove all doubt from the ore producer as to the course he ought to pursue, but now he is necessarily reluctant to move in the matter, lest there should be any temporary difficulty, and he be, perhaps, ruined, by being found in opposition to the smelter. Our Cornish correspondent, in alluding to the subject last week, says—"The new company have their (the miners) best wishes, and, no doubt, will have their assistance as soon as the excellence of their process is demonstrated."

There is, literally, no end of the loss which the miner sustains from the want of a new method of separating metals. Poor ores are altogether a loss, or sold for a mere nominal price, under the present system. The process of the MINERS' REDUCTION COMPANY steps in here most especially, and will produce a profit, where hitherto there has been no benefit. An illustration of this occurred only last week. A Cornish tin mine has for a long time been selling "burnt leavings" for 1s. 6d. per ton; and, although willing to get rid of what they considered mere refuse, they nevertheless were surprised that the masters were always such ready buyers. After various trials, on Thursday last, by Mr. PERKINS, on account of this mine, he was requested to test some of the leavings, and he soon determined that the portions under trial yielded no less than at the rate of 18 3/4 per cent. of copper, so that it is clear the whole contains a good percentage of this valuable metal, and explains the anxiety of the buyers.

From the north of England, we also heard lately that for lead ore, the same ore, sampled for the two smelters at Newcastle, a difference of no less than 3d. per ton occurred. The higher price was necessarily accepted, but it is good evidence of the caprice and uncertainty to which lead producers in the north of England are subject to from the only two buyers in, their only market, Newcastle.

We have received numerous letters on the subject of the Miners' Reduction Company, and to many we have given insertion. In our present Number there is another, from "A Smelter," of the same tendency as those which have preceded—namely, misrepresentation, or wanton depreciation, and one from Mr. HILL, who writes openly, and furnishes a statement of the components of "copper smoke." Is this a right application, and are we to understand that large quantities of copper terminate in smoke? This is a new feature, but the whole system of copper smelting is so enveloped in smoke, that it is not easily seen through. It surely does not follow, moreover, as implied by this gentleman, that because Sir HUMPHRY DAVY and Dr. FARADAY were baffled on this point, that WAGSTAFFE and PERKINS, or any one else, cannot overcome the difficulty. This would be to argue that the knowledge of DAVY and FARADAY was the extent of knowledge to which others could attain. The very fact, as stated by Mr. HILL, that these learned men were "intent on the subject" for a long time, showed that they considered it might be overcome, or else why did they attempt the solution. Sir HUMPHRY did not know everything, or else why did he not introduce this very matter—the electro-chemical system—which was left for BERZELIUS to demonstrate? Neither did VOLTA introduce the electric telegraph, although he discovered voltaic electricity.

A "Subscriber" in the Journal, the week before last, which is also noticed by Mr. CLEMENT, asked very detailed questions, which could not necessarily be answered without going into all the minutiae of the process; and why should this be done, to gratify the curiosity, or something else, of an anonymous querist? It is not reasonable to suppose that the patentees will enter into such discussion, and we consider they are wise in determining to take no notice henceforth of those who refrain from giving their names. The patentees assure us that they are ready and willing to meet their opponents in fair and open controversy; and that if these querists desire only the good of their fellow-men, as they assert, and are actuated by philanthropic motives, they must stand forth as men not ashamed of themselves or their cause. Mr. BYRKS, of Dolgelly, meets "A Subscriber" fairly, and says, "if this company do extract any copper by electro-chemical action, they can extract the ultimate atom, provided the ore has given all its copper to the solution."

"A Smelter" says he has obtained a specification of the patent, but cannot "see to the bottom of it." This is rich, indeed. Of course, he cannot fathom the specification. The essence of a good specification is to frustrate the designs of those who make a trade, a positive livelihood, by watching for defective patents, and thus, taking advantage of the intellect and ingenuity of others, pass off useful improvements as their own inventions, and reap the benefit. There is more than one office in London supported by this disgraceful system.

The same writer professedly admits the necessity of a revolution in smelting, yet perverts facts to show the inadequacy of WAGSTAFFE and PERKINS'S process. He dwells on minor points, and assumes positions without data, desiring there should be "a timely exposure" of the fallacy of the process. We rather think that the letter is an "exposure" of his own incompetency to judge, and certainly of his gratuitous opposition to a project which will tend to carry out what he designates "a revolution needed" in the system of smelting. Many learn by pretending to teach.

There is another letter from "A Practical Chemist and Metallurgist" who complains that the patentees have not answered his remarks. We were compromised, and replied fully in a leader in our Journal of the 26th April, to which we refer our correspondent, and which has evidently escaped his observation. He may form his own opinion, but we are at a loss to know how he can judge for our "readers, or the mining public."

Whether he thinks proper, or no, "to place any confidence in the company," it is clear that those who have tested the process are differently influenced, and the funds necessary for going to work are provided.

We have just received a communication from Mr. PERKINS, but too late for insertion. It shall appear next week. It is a withering summary for some of his opponents.

In another column will be found a report of the meeting of the COPIAPO MINING COMPANY, held yesterday. From this it will be seen that the prospects of the company promise, if adequately and properly developed, to afford large and remunerative returns. Checo Copper Mine has been exceedingly productive: the returns last July were 131 tons, of 17 1/2 per cent.; while in December they were 205 tons, of 24 1/2—the produce for the months of November and December being 100 tons of fine copper. The superintendent, SENOR NARANJO, it appears, is a man of strict honesty, and great influence in the Republic, and under his charge the interests of the company are sure to be protected; it merely remains with them to see that he has that support so necessary to bring operations to a successful issue. The mines of Tomayo have produced 30,000l. in one month, but this has only been done after exploration, and at depth; and, according to all received opinions, the further prosecution of Checo would lead to equally favourable results; but this can only be attained when the mine is sunk to a greater depth.

Since the last half-yearly meeting, the directors have decided on reducing their own ores, and the necessary materials, with a mason, have been dispatched from England for that purpose. The site they have adopted at Caldera, on the coast, is well fitted for the purpose for which it is chosen, the railway from the mines running through it, thereby affording a commodious and facile transport for the produce. The landed estates of the company are likewise increasing in value; and as the more extended means of communication are opened, bringing with them further population, there can be no question but they must form a considerable addition to the wealth of the association. Among all the South American Republics, Chili has borne the honourable distinction of being the one least affected by political convulsions; the laws there are settled on a solid basis, and the scenes of anarchy enacted on the eastern side of the Andes are unknown there: the country is progressing, commerce is protected and encouraged, and, at no distant day, the Republic will be able to obtain a prominent position among the nations of the world.

A railway is projected from the estate of the company to the rich mining district of Chanarcillo; this will be a tram-road, to be worked by mules, and cannot fail to be productive, as the vast supplies obtained from the mineral districts alone will be sufficient, not only to pay expenses, but likewise return a large profit.

It will be seen that the directors of the Copiapo Mining Company have a valuable property, and that it merely requires an energetic and spirited development to enable the mines to give greater returns than they do at the present period. In mining operations, though extravagance is to be deprecated, yet a false spirit of economy should not be encouraged, this being always detrimental to the well-being of any undertaking, while a liberal and wise expenditure affords profitable results. We believe the directors, with regard to the interests of the shareholders, will adopt the best measures in order to obtain those returns which, from all accounts, the mines are capable of affording.

The value of a knowledge of the several metals in daily use amongst us, and of the most approved means of extracting them from their ores, cannot be overrated; and that this was acknowledged centuries since cannot be denied, from the simple fact that metallurgy was cultivated to such an extent by the Greeks and Romans of antiquity, that their productions are, in many instances, scarcely surpassed by our own most skilful artificers. In 1530, GEORGIUS AGRICOLA, a German physician, published his *De Re Metallica*, which may be considered the first standard work on the subject; this was followed, nearly half a century afterwards, by a very able treatise by LAZARUS ERCKEN, another German; and many of the most important inventions in common use at the present day in England have been imported from Germany. It appears, too, that however elevated may be our position as a commercial and manufacturing nation, we have still something to learn with regard to the practical methods of conducting mining and smelting operations, to render ourselves superior to our German neighbours. There is always a certain amount of risk attending the introduction of new inventions, whether they proceed from the imagination of our own countrymen, or from the more inventive minds of foreigners, from the uncertainty as to the ultimate success; and this uncertainty prevents the capitalist, unless he be more than ordinarily clear-sighted and enterprising, from assisting the inventor to perfect an ingenious and thoroughly practical contrivance for the attainment of a desired end. This feeling will not appear surprising, when the loss of time, trouble, and money which frequently takes place, and the great anxiety which is invariably experienced before the long-cherished hopes of the inventor are realised, are taken into consideration. But when an invention has produced satisfactory results in a foreign country, and only requires to be known in our own to be appreciated to its fullest extent, the case is altogether different; and it is to be regretted that, although when some speculative person has incurred the expense and trouble of securing the monopoly of it by patent right, the field is crowded with claimants to priority, an appearance of selfishness, or, to use the mildest term, carelessness, should be allowed from gentlemen who have long been in possession of the secret, and at the same time been convinced of the value of an invention, neglecting to publish it for the benefit of the country at large, and yet having no intention of securing the monopoly to themselves.

For several weeks an animated discussion has been carried on in the columns of the MINING JOURNAL respecting the ROTATING BUDDLE, recently introduced and patented by Mr. D. ZENNER, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which has been satisfactorily tested, and become generally adopted in Germany, and for that reason was particularly deserving of the attention of English miners and smelters, being a machine calculated to be of service to them; therefore, we must express our opinion, that parties should have availed themselves of the facilities offered for the publication of descriptions of mechanical novelties in the MINING JOURNAL, and thus have rendered the invention public property, rather than complaining after the patent right is secured. The Rotating Buddle, which is the subject of our remarks, is the joint invention of the managers and foreman of the Hanoverian Government mines, at Clausthal, and the success achieved exceeded their most sanguine expectations—the natural consequence being that it was speedily adopted at the principal mines in Saxony, Bohemia, Austria, &c., giving in every instance perfect satisfaction. As one of the first comparative experiments for testing its capabilities, we may cite the following, which was made at Clausthal, before the workmen were accustomed to the use of the machine; indeed, we might say, when they were totally unused to it:—Slime ores of lead, weighing 619 cwt. were taken, with quartz and blende (black jack) principally as matrix, and, while dry, were divided into two equal parts of 309 1/2 cwt. each. One of these parcels was washed by means of the ordinary round buddle, and required 609 hours for accomplishing the work; the other was treated by the rotating buddle, and by it was finished in 86 hours, thus giving an advantage of 523 hours in favour of the rotating buddle; or, in other words, the time occupied by the round buddle, compared with the rotating one in the performance of the same amount of work, was as 7-08 is to 1—the ultimate result of the experiment being also an increase in the produce of lead and silver by the rotating buddle.

The favourable opinion expressed by Messrs. J. R. EDDY, J. DARTINGTON, C. J. DREY, and C. H. G. THOST, in this country, and by the various reporters in the German Mining Journals, would alone be sufficient to prove the value of the invention, but from the great importance of the subject we are induced to make a few additional remarks. We must consider that the separation in the ordinary round buddle is imperfect, as the ore is deposited, in proportion to its greater or less density, from the centre outwards in a continuous sheet, which, after being drained, is cut out with a spade at different and arbitrary distances from the centre: during the time of discharging the buddle necessarily remains idle. The BRUNTON'S frame certainly separates the ores into two classes, but the operation is so slow that its working power was as much exceeded by the round buddle as that is by the rotating buddle. Again, the rotating buddle separates, at each revolution, the ore into almost as many classes as may be desired, and delivers them at once into the several compartments connected with pits for collecting them from. This arrangement allows the working to proceed for a length of time—say a week or ten days—without interruption, which advantage must necessarily increase the amount of work done very considerably. A boy only is required to attend to the machine for the purpose of feeding it, and it is

doubtful whether, by a judicious connection with the stamps, &c., even this could not be dispensed with.

In conclusion, we may observe, that much as it is to be regretted that the invention is not public property, we hope that the mere fact of its being patented will not prevent its being adopted wherever it otherwise would have been; and also that the patentee will not be so illiberal as to demand an amount for licenses which will act as a prohibition to its general adoption in England.

THE MINING AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS OF CORNWALL.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN WEST CORNWALL.]

MAY 8.—There is no noticeable improvement in mining business, but as the prices of all kinds of materials have much declined, and the expenditure on mining property will be less, whilst the receipts therefrom will not diminish, but, looking at the number of good progressive mines in the county as likely to increase, it cannot but be anticipated that a time of mining activity will recur at no distant period; though, in all probability, a few months must elapse before the money market will be so well supplied as to bring much additional capital into mining operations. At the present time, however, any gentleman travelling through Cornwall will find there is considerable activity in applying for new sets; so that the public will have to be careful that they are not hereafter drawn into delusive speculations by unscrupulous or over-sanguine promoters.

Wheal Buller is looking well, and maintains the price of shares at about 570l. Copper Hill is encouraging, but there is no decided improvement. North Basset has somewhat improved; price of shares, 38l. Wheal Basset shares are from 360l. to 370l. Grambler and St. Aubyn continues to look very promising. Buller and Basset United presents good indications, but time is required for further development. Wheal Agar is beginning to look like a hopeful adventure. At Wheal Ellen, a 24-inch pumping engine has been set to work. In South Wheal Ellen, shares have changed hands at 7l. In shares of the Rosewarne district of mines there is scarcely anything at present doing, though there are some very promising sets in that locality; Wheal Hender shares have fallen to 2l. 10s. At South Frances two-monthly meeting, on Monday, a dividend of 8l. per share (3968l.) was declared. This, as was anticipated, was less than the previous dividend, which was 10l. per share, and probably the 10l. dividend will not again be attained for some months, as expensive operations have to be carried out, after which, as the mine is continuing productive, the former rate of dividend is likely to be resumed. At the meeting, on Monday, the balance in hand was reduced from 327l. to 269l.

South Frances adventurers have the credit of being the first to move against the Rating of Mines Bill. At the account meeting, on Monday, there was a very full attendance, consisting of upwards of fifty shareholders, many of whom are among the most influential and successful mining gentlemen in the West of Cornwall. The subject of the rating of mines was introduced by Mr. J. C. Lanyon, of Redruth, and Capt. Lean, of Truro; the subject was discussed at considerable length, and the feeling of the meeting (with only one exception) was entirely opposed to any rating whatever. Active steps were taken in the matter, it being resolved to send a circular to all the mines in the county, to request the opinion of the managers and shareholders on the subject, and to take measures for calling an early public meeting of the mining lords and adventurers of Cornwall. Those gentlemen who have originated this movement should see that it be not allowed to languish; for, if they wish to defeat the rating measure, and to check the present urgent promoters of it, they must act both with promptitude and vigour. A petition from the working miners of the county should be sent up, as well as from the lords, adventurers, and managers of mines; for all are interested, and all should endeavour to defeat this mischievous attempt on the part of certain gentlemen, some of whom have been misled, whilst others have not much at heart the prosperity of the mining interest, but would do more, if they could, for the agriculturists.

With reference to the miners' "doctor and club" fund, I stated not long since my conviction that, if the moneys derived from that fund, throughout Cornwall, were properly applied to the relief of sick and disabled miners and their families, the poor-rates in mining parishes would be so far relieved, that there would be no need for any imposition of poor-rates on mining property. I am glad now to find that something like a practical movement is about to be made in this direction. Upon the motion of the Rev. T. Pascoe, of St. Hilary, the board of guardians of the Penzance Union have been especially summoned, "to take into consideration the question of the doctor and club fund, and how far that fund might be rendered available towards the relief of the sick miner, his wife and children, as well as to the disabled man, instead of leaving them a burden on the poor-rates, as levied at present on land and house property only." In bringing forward this motion before the board of guardians, the Rev. T. Pascoe shows a commendable anxiety for the welfare of the mining interest, and his conduct may be strongly contrasted with that of the Members for Cornwall, whose names are on the back of the bill introduced into the House of Commons for the Rating of Mines—Mr. Kendall, Mr. Michael Williams, and Sir Charles Lemon.

Should not these Members have acted somewhat in Mr. Pascoe's spirit, and have enquired whether there is not a fund already existing, by the due application of which poor-rates may be avoided, instead of rushing into Parliament without any enquiry of the kind, and endeavouring to fasten upon the mining shareholders of the county they represent a bill for rating, which must greatly damage and depreciate the property of their constituents? In the event of a future election, the conduct of these Members ought to be remembered, and properly visited by the mining interest of Cornwall.

It is obvious to every one of ordinary perception, that the rating of mines to the poor must have a depreciating effect upon mining property. If the lords pay the rating on their dues, they will raise their royalties for all future sets. If the adventurers pay the rates, it will be a deduction from the produce of the mines. In either case, the value of the mining property is diminished,—a species of property which I firmly believe it was never contemplated by the Legislature in former times should be subjected to rating like other kinds of property. I believe the two solicitors, Mr. Stokes, and Mr. P. P. Smith, who spoke at the Truro meeting, last December, were correct in their views on this point. They are solicitors of standing in the county of Cornwall, and know more of the peculiar character of mining property than professional gentlemen who do not reside contiguous to a great mining district. Mr. Smith is secretary of the Vice-Warden's Court; Mr. Stokes is the Mayor of Truro. The latter gentleman said, in addressing the meeting:—"The mode of working metallic mines is entirely different from that of coal mines; it is an extreme speculation, requiring a great outlay, great skill, and involving much hazard. Metallic mines do not stand on the same footing as coal mines, which are very much like quarries, and are worked in wide fields, where the property is palpable and visible, and comparatively of easy attainment, and got at with much less risk; it was, therefore, thought, in the time of Elizabeth, that coal mines (and certainly there were then some tin mines in Cornwall) should be rated, and metallic mines not rated." Mr. P. P. Smith said:—"He did not think there had been any violent construction of the statute (43d of Elizabeth) by the judges who had to decide the cases since brought before them. In the first case, the judges said they did not consider metallic mines were liable to be rated, and Lord Mansfield said he considered coal mines were worked without risk, but metallic mines were liable to so much hazard and expense, that he did not think the Legislature came to a violent conclusion in enacting that coal mines should be rated, and not metallic mines."

It is alleged as a reason for the three Cornish Members alluded to bringing forward this Mines Rating Bill, that if they were not to do so, the Government would bring in a bill, and a more severe measure in its pressure upon mining property. This, however, is a question open to doubt. Mr. Robartes, at the Truro meeting, threw a doubt on the statement that the Government intended to bring in any such measure; and it is observable now that Mr. Robartes holds himself aloof from the present bill. But even if the Government had any intention to bring in a bill, could not the Cornish Members urge the propriety of delay, until they find from enquiry what was possible to be done by a just and judicious application of the doctor and club fund throughout the county?

The present bill, if passed without modifications, will, to all intents and purposes, throw the entire rating upon the mining adventurers, and allow the lords to go free. It is a mere deception to pretend to place half the rating upon the lords, provided there be nothing to the contrary in the leases, when the concoctors of the bill know well that almost invariably there is a contrary clause in mine leases. The adventurers will have to pay the whole of the rating, though it is they who undergo all the risks of the mine operations, whilst the lords have no risk. Surely the Mines

Rating Committee, and the three M.P.'s, ought to be ashamed of their bill! I should state, however, in justice to them, that they had a long discussion over the matter in committee, and seemed to have some disposition to fix the lords with half the rates in a *bona fide* way, but it was represented to them that there was a clause in leases throwing all rates and taxes (if any were levied) upon adventurers, and that the Legislature would not consent to abrogate those private arrangements.

Probably in this view the advisers of the committee were right. But if the committee saw the difficulty of interfering with existing leases, they might have avoided that difficulty by leaving mines now in working out of their bill; they might have taken Mr. Robartes' advice, and have made their measure prospective only. The effect of their bill, as it now stands, will be to press with great hardship upon many bodies of shareholders, who have agreed to give the lords high dues, because they had no expectation of having to pay poor-rates. Make the measure prospective, and its mischief will be lessened; because in all bargains for future settlements regard will be paid to the new state of the law as concerns rating.

These are the principal arguments which are now made use of in the discussions which are arising in the county on the rating of mines. It is some comfort to see, by the letter of your Derbyshire correspondent last week, that "the miners of Derbyshire are united to a man to oppose any tax upon the lead mines of that county." With regard to Cornwall, there is a growing feeling amongst the mining interest against the proposed bill, which is likely to produce such a feeling of resentment against the three M.P.'s who have introduced it, as may not be very pleasant for them on a future occasion.

The Stannaries Court is now sitting at Truro, and there are some cases of interest for trial. One of the cases, involving a considerable amount, is a claim for water charges, &c., made by the adventurers of Wheal Tremayne against those of West Providence Mine. It is a suit in equity, and the amount claimed is about 400*l*.

THE IRON AND COAL TRADES OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN WOLVERHAMPTON.]

MAY 9.—The iron trade continues to maintain an aspect of firmness, although orders are not coming in quite so rapidly as they were. Still there is a good demand, and present operations appear to rest on a firm basis. The demand from America continues slacker than was anticipated from the low state of stocks and the great improvement in the commercial world in that country. The probable reason for this is the unusual severity and long continuance of bad weather, which has prevented interior produce reaching the seaboard, and has, in like manner, prevented the conveyance of imported goods into those localities. As this obstacle is being removed, we may probably expect larger orders; but some persons are of opinion that at present rates the Americans can to a large extent compete with this country in the production of iron for their own use. Pig-iron remains firm, and 4*l*. 10*s*. is the prevailing rate for good hot-blast mine pig.

The North Staffordshire iron trade is brisk. This branch of industrial enterprise has been, and is, undergoing a very active development in the neighbourhood of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the Potteries; and that district, named from, and hitherto known for, its fertile productions, promises to become an important seat of the iron manufacture. The supply of ironstone in that neighbourhood is almost inexhaustible, but it is considered inferior to that found in the south of the county. The extended development of the iron trade there is largely due to the energetic efforts of Mr. Stanier, of the Silver Dale Company, whose extensive mills and forges are gradually converting a beautifully picturesque valley, worthy the name of "Silver Dale," into the smoke-beclouded chaos which an iron-making district presents. Earl Grenville, who owns an immense extent of property in that neighbourhood, has recently erected works on a very large scale, and the outlay he has incurred must be enormous. The North Staffordshire iron does not command so high a price as that produced in this neighbourhood. Their bars are selling, delivered in Manchester, at from 8*l*. 10*s*. to 8*l*. 15*s*. Pig-iron fetches 3*l*. 15*s*. at the works, and puddle bars 6*l*. 15*s*. Large quantities of North Staffordshire ore is brought into this locality, but is mixed with the ironstone of this district in the process of smelting, otherwise the iron produced is inferior. Considerable quantities of iron ore are also conveyed here from Frog Hall, in the north-east of the county, several of our ironmasters having mines there.

Little of the Northamptonshire ore appears to be now brought into this district, it being thought inferior in quality. A very excellent ore, equal to South Staffordshire flats and gubbin, is obtained from Bedworth, near Coventry. The best ore, however, which is brought into the district is the red hematite, from Ilverstone, and other places in Cumberland and Lancashire, which fetches from 3*s*. 6*d*. to 4*s*. per ton more than the best qualities of South Staffordshire ore, and is very largely consumed.

The mention of this ore naturally suggests Mr. Lowe's Local Dues and Shipping Bill. This ore is shipped to ports on the Mersey, and pays a duty of 3*d*. per ton to the Liverpool Corporation, which is a serious tax upon the iron trade here. The Ironmasters' Association have, therefore, petitioned in favour of Mr. Lowe's measure. Their petition describes—

"The claim of the Corporation of Liverpool to exact these dues as unconstitutional in its nature as it is opposed in principle to all recognised law. That the exaction of such dues presses with peculiar severity on the South Staffordshire iron trade, by materially increasing the disadvantages under which the export trade of this district labours from its inland position. That from the great extent of the manufacturing works of South Staffordshire, and the large proportion of coal which this coal field contains, as compared with iron ore, the iron-works of this district can only be kept in full operation by large supplies of iron ore, brought from a considerable distance."

After referring to the charge on this particular ore, it proceeds:—

"That the Liverpool Town Dues thus operate injuriously in a twofold manner upon the trade of this district, by levying a tax, firstly, upon the raw material consumed; and secondly, upon the finished article produced for export from any port in the estuary of the Mersey. That when the charter under which the Liverpool Corporation claims the right of levying these dues was purchased, the entire iron manufacture of the kingdom did not exceed 20,000 tons per annum, a quantity equal to 1-35th part of the present quantity manufactured in the South Staffordshire district alone; and that this enormous increase could not have been contemplated as possible at the period when the charter was granted, and when the South Staffordshire iron trade, as far as regards any imports or exports, was not in existence. That your petitioners consider the imposition of these Town Dues presses with peculiar severity upon the development of the industrial resources of this district, and hail with satisfaction the introduction by Her Majesty's Government of the Local Dues and Shipping Bill, by which the just recommendations of the Shipping Dues Commission will be carried into effect, and all taxes upon ships or shipping not required for the maintenance of port purposes will be abolished."

The industrial and commercial part of the community have certainly been very tardy in giving their support to a measure so vitally affecting their interests; and it is probable, had Mr. Lowe received the support they could have afforded him when the bill was introduced, it would not have been so long delayed, and its final success perilled.

The conviction that coal must experience a further reduction is universally felt. Within late years, the price has greatly increased, but the development of the resources of the Cannock Chase coal measures is largely augmenting the supply, which is proved by the sale of this coal being now pushed in the district. The Tipton Drainage Association is also efficiently prosecuting its labours, and extensive tracts of valuable coal, long drowned out, will now be rendered available by means of its operations.

The trade of Walsall is much more active, large orders having recently been received from Australia; and the wheel and axle trade of Wednesbury, and other trades of the district are also active.

The returns of the Board of Trade for the first three months of the present year give proof of an enormous expansion in our export trade, as compared with last year. Allowing for the five days additional included in the returns for 1856, as compared with 1855—caused by a change of date to which the returns are made up—there is an increase of upwards of 6,000,000*l*. in the exports, which have risen from less than 19,000,000*l*. in the first three months of last year, to 25,000,000*l*. in the present, and which exceed the exports in 1854 by nearly 1,000,000*l*. In this increase iron of various kinds has a large share. Pig-iron has increased from 177,729*l*. in 1855, to 240,433*l*. in 1856. Bar, bolt, and rod, from 688,138*l*. to 1,302,843*l*. Wrought-iron, from 422,544*l*. to 724,120*l*. Cast-iron alone showing a slight falling off, from 138,553*l*. in 1855, to 125,831*l*. in the present year.

This large expansion of our foreign trade, coming, as it does, after a period—not yet really past away—when an immense amount of the floating capital of the country has been absorbed for war purposes, may help in no small degree to explain the scarcity of money so much complained of, especially when to this is added the large expenditure in France in railways, and other public works, which convert floating into fixed capital, and thus limit the means by which commerce is carried on. It is too often the case that a single palpable cause is selected to account for any striking phenomenon; and I am convinced that the tightness of the money market has been too exclusively ascribed to the drain caused by the war.

This view receives a strong confirmation, from the fact that Consols at present prices only pay about 3½ per cent. interest; while bills having only a few days to run cannot be discounted at less than 5½. It thus appears that capital, available for commercial purposes, is very scarce, as compared with capital invested on trust, which cannot be so employed, and which is placed in the funds. These indications add weight to your Paris correspondent's warnings to English capitalists not too hastily to invest in continental railways, and especially the numerous schemes which are being brought forward in France. Many thoughtful men look on the present feverish spirit of speculation manifested in that country with some degree of alarm.

France, by the way, appears to be greatly increasing her imports of coal and iron, a consequence of the partial reduction of her import tariff. Comparing the imports for the first quarters of 1854-55-56, it appears that coals have increased from 7,550,412 metrical quintals in 1854, and 6,894,559, in 1855, to 9,672,338, in 1856. Cast iron, in 1854, 219,502 metrical quintals, in 1855, 246,249, and, in 1856, 249,267. Bar iron, during the three years, has increased from 8403 metrical quintals in 1854, to 84,009, in 1855, and to 121,550 in the first three months of 1856. The metrical quintal is 221½ *l*bs., and may be called 2 cwt. English. Belgium supplies the larger portion of the coal, but England sends about one-fifth; while of the iron, this country sends about the same quantity as France's northern neighbour. This appears to open up a prospect of a larger trade with France, if a more liberal commercial policy should be adopted in that country.

We have already stated that the American reduction of the duties upon iron exported from this country would have a material and beneficial influence upon the iron trade of South Staffordshire. This, it is now said, will amount to about 3*s*. per ton. The duty in America, now levied upon the net cost at the respective works, being only levied upon the price at the port from which it is shipped, a proportionate advantage will, therefore, be gained by our local manufacturers, situated at so great a distance as they are from Liverpool, the chief port from which they export to the United States. The pig-makers, whose stocks still continue extremely limited, keep up prices with great firmness, and from the scarcity and dearth of best stone, they appear to be justified in the course which they have adopted. The ironstone introduced into the district from a distance does not answer for best purposes.

Inquests on the four men killed by the bursting of a boiler, at Bradley, last week, have resulted in verdicts of "manslaughter" against the two engineers who had the charge of the boiler, and, just before the time of the accident. A printer's error in your last has made me say the reverse of what I did actually say respecting the cause of this explosion. I said, it is now well known—perhaps I should have said generally acknowledged by those who have paid attention to the subject—that steam in red-hot boilers accumulates heat without causing any corresponding increase of pressure, until the heat is reduced to a certain point, or the water is disturbed, when this latent heat suddenly generates steam so rapidly as to produce an irresistible increase of pressure.

As this letter has already surpassed my proper limits, I will reserve some remarks on this subject, and on several points suggested by the coroner's enquiry, until next week.

STOCK, MINING, AND RAILWAY SHARES IN IRELAND.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN.]

MAY 8.—The settlement of the stock account was a heavy one, and the "bulls" had to pay a centage of 10*s*., and even 12*s*. 6*d*.; but as higher prices are looked for here, this centage was readily given. In shares, business was rather slack this week, and there were no fluctuations of any importance. The following are the latest quotations, as usual:—Hibernian Bank, 31½; National Bank, 32; Royal Bank, 19½; Dublin and Liverpool Ship Building Company, 43½; Grand Canal Company, 38½; Patriotic Insurance, 7½; Consumers' Gas Company, 8; Mining Company of Ireland, 13½; Wicklow Copper Mine, 29; Cork and Bandon Railway, 8½; Cork and Passage, 11½; Dublin and Drogheda, 63½; Dublin and Wicklow, 5½; Great Southern and Western, 51½; Dundalk and Enniskillen, 13½; Midland Great Western, 51; Waterford and Kilkenny, 4½; Waterford and Limerick, 22½.

The official manager of the Irish Consols Mining Company has at last taken the necessary steps to bring the affairs of this company to a close, and has been for the last couple of days arguing his case before Master Litton, and having investigated the accounts, seeks to make 5000 of the shares available for a dividend, by compelling the holders to pay up the full value. The parties coming within the manager's application were Sir James C. Chatterton, Major-General, Mr. Macartney, M.P., Sir James Dombaine, and the Hon. Mr. Ponsonby, as well as Messrs. Lane and Perrier, all of whom were represented by counsel. The case may be shortly stated, but so far as the investigations have gone it does really seem, if one circumstance be excepted, that the gentlemen I have named had no intention of committing a fraud upon the public, but entered into the speculation with a full belief of its *bona fide* character. It appears that Messrs. Lane and Perrier, having obtained a lease of the mines in question, entered into an arrangement with the promoters to make an assignment of the lease to a company for 10,000*l*. to be paid by 10,000 shares, which it was understood were not to be placed upon the market for a certain time. It then appears that a Mr. Rathbone, one of directors, and since a bankrupt, called upon Messrs. Lane and Perrier, and stated that the directors required, for their trouble in acting, 5000 of the 10,000 shares they had received for the lease; these they gave accordingly, and of those 5000 shares Sir J. C. Chatterton received 630, Mr. Macartney 645, and Sir J. Dombaine 306; and the official manager affirms that the parties who have received those shares for nothing have a right to pay for them, while the defendants contend that no debt appears in the company's books against them for these shares, that they were fully paid up, and in fact got them from Messrs. Lane and Perrier, and not from the company; that they so got them for services rendered as directors; and some of those gentlemen showed that they never used the shares so received, and still retain them. After the public allocation of shares it appears that 3195 remained unallotted, and that the directors agreed to divide them among themselves, and on account of these shares they fully admit their liability. Sir J. C. Chatterton has given his bill for 400*l*., Mr. Macartney for 400*l*. also; while the Hon. Mr. Ponsonby gave 250*l*. in cash, and his bill for 250*l*. more, and resigns his claim to the shares of the company in his possession. The official manager next makes a separate and distinct charge against Sir J. Chatterton and Mr. Macartney for a sum of 930*l*., together with interest on this amount, which was employed to "rig the market," by purchasing up 830 shares, thus creating a demand, and raising the market value of the shares.

Now this is the disgraceful point of the whole proceeding, and I hope an exposure of this kind will put an end to that nefarious system of "rigging," so dishonourable to the parties carrying it on, as it gives a false value to the shares, and by that means allures unsuspecting victims, who believe the market value to be the true test, as it ought to be, of public opinion. You have so often, and so ably, exposed and commented upon this vile practice, that it is not now necessary to dwell longer in denouncing it; but to return *ad rem*. Sir J. C. Chatterton denies in his affidavit that he was aware of the purpose for which this 930*l*. of the company's money was applied. We must believe him; and he may himself have been entirely imposed upon by parties acting behind the scenes. One point seems ascertained—namely, that Sir J. C. Chatterton, Mr. Macartney, and Mr. Rathbone, to whom I have before referred, signed the cheques for this amount. If so, they must, and justly so, be held liable for the full amount, with interest. I await the Master's judgment in these cases, which will be highly important, and of which I shall take care to give you a summary.

The Dundalk and Enniskillen Railway Company have received 4000*l*. from the Dublin and Drogheda and Dublin and Belfast Junction Railway Companies, in consideration of which two directors from each of the latter companies have been added to the board of the former company, and every exertion is now being made to push the completion of the line to Enniskillen, and from thence it is understood to continue to Sligo. This will open up important communication with the West, and also between the midland and northern counties.

The statement of accounts of the General Mining Company for Ireland will be placed in the hands of the shareholders by the end of the week. I do not expect that it will be so satisfactory as might be wished, though the returns from one part of the property will show a considerable increase: it must be recollected also that it was the winter half-year. I will defer any remarks till the document itself appears.

METAL TRADES AND INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IN FRANCE.

[FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.]

MAY 7.—The Mining Interest has given a slight sign of vitality, two meetings have been held, and the statement of accounts published of the Tenes (Algerian) Copper Mines Company, and of the Societe Anonyme de la Loire Mines. The Tenes Mines produced, in 1854, 960 kilns of ore, of which 395½ were sent to Swansea, and Septemes (French) Reduction Works. The sales produced 74,458 *frs*. On Dec. 31, 1854, 554 tons of ore, valued at 138,687 *frs*., were lying at the surface. The manager (M. A. Barat), had been trying the rich lodes of Boukandach and Camp du Gorges, which would have necessitated an outlay of 24,000*frs*. Unfortunately, the capital of the company had been compromised by most disastrous failures. Loans were impossible to be obtained. The company was obliged to keep within very narrow limits, as regards working. It sold 198 tons of ore for 34,811 *frs*., and has remaining on the ground 545 tons, valued at 78,710 *frs*. The deficit has consequently been reduced to 45,829 *frs*., so that there is every probability of the company shortly resuming operations. According to the statement published by the company, the Loire coal mines produced, in 1855, 2,661,658 metrical quintals. Receipts: 992,383-21 *frs*. profits; which, with the balance from 1854, equals 1,009,963-68 *frs*. A dividend of 5 *frs*. per share was paid for the past half-year, and another of 5 *frs*. was paid after the meeting. [We have received a mass of valuable information, commercial and scientific, from our correspondent, which we shall give in our next Journal.]

MINING AND COMMERCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The returns of the New York Banks on the 5th of April, show an increase of loans to a point never before reached. It will be remembered that the greatest expansion of the same institutions in 1855, was in August, when the loans reached \$101,000,000: the street rate at that time for prime endorsed bills did not exceed 7 per cent. From August 18, a gradual reduction of the loans followed from week to week, and a constant increase in the rates of discount; so that on Nov. 10 the loans had fallen to \$92,500,000, and money had risen in value to 12 per cent. per annum. Since Dec. 1, a reverse movement has taken place. It now remains to be seen whether, under the new conditions of trade, this expansion can be continued for months without reaction:—

NEW YORK BANKS.					
	Capital.	Loans.	Specie.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 18, 1855.....	48,533,380	101,151,060	14,649,245	7,610,106	81,949,000
Nov. 10, 1855.....	48,533,380	92,451,290	10,855,526	8,088,608	75,744,000
April 5, 1856.....	50,371,156	106,952,018	13,381,454	8,347,980	91,060,000

BOSTON BANKS.					
	Capital.	Loans.	Specie.	Circulation.	Deposits.
March 8, 1856.....	31,930,000	51,969,730	3,540,795	7,349,317	15,040,000
April 5, 1856.....	31,960,000	52,464,406	4,418,250	7,131,484	15,844,000

Exchange on London is 9 1-2 per cent., or \$4 7-8 to the £ sterling. First class endorsed paper, four to six months, sells at 7 1-2 per cent.; loans of four months, with approved collateral, at 9 per cent.; money on call, 8 to 10 per cent. BANKS.—Transactions light; prices well sustained, with an increased demand since the dividend. The following dividends were paid on the 1st April:—Atlantic, 3 per cent.; Broadway, City, Columbian, Commercial, Eliot, Granite, Howard, Maverick, National, North, N. America, State, Washington, and Webster, 3 1-2 per cent.; Massachusetts, 3 1-5 per cent.; Atlas, Blackstone, Boston, Fenwick Hall, Globe, Hamilton, Mechanics, Merchants, New England, Shawmut, Traders, Tremont, and Union, 1 per cent.; Boylston, Shoe and Leather Dealers, 4 1-2 per cent.; Exchange, Freeman's, Market, and Suffolk, 5 per cent.

MANUFACTURING COMPANIES.—The Boston Manufacturing Company have declared a dividend of \$20 per share. The demand for domestic cottons for export continues. There were shipped from Boston to foreign ports from Jan. 1 to April 10, 13,100 packages. Same time 1855, 4120 packages. From New York, to April 8, 10,026 packages. Same time, 1855, 6569 packages.

LAND STOCKS.—The only movement has been in Essex, which has advanced 3 per cent.

BONDS.—The market in these securities has been extremely inactive. A small amount have changed hands at lower prices. The coupon due Oct. 1, 1855, on Ogdensburgh first mortgage was paid on the 1st inst. It being generally understood that the trustees anticipated the earnings of the road to pay them, no improvement in the price of the bonds took place.

RAILROADS.—A slight improvement in the dividend roads may be noticed. A growing case in the money market, with the expectation of increased receipts, has made a small demand. Nashua and Lowell advanced from \$80 to \$85 on the announcement that the May dividend would be 4 per cent., and that the company was freed from debt.

MINES.—The very satisfactory result from the working of the Cliff and Minnesota Mines during 1855, have attracted the attention of many, who have hitherto regarded mining at Lake Superior as too hazardous for the investment of any considerable amount of capital. Apparently a considerable number of floating shares of both companies have recently been taken up by new purchasers for permanent investment. This demand may have carried the prices of each stock to figures from which there may be temporarily a slight reaction, but in view of the continued increase of product, and the vast quantities of metal exposed to view, there can be no doubt of the much greater value than that indicated by the present quotations. The following statistics from Mr. J. D. Whitney's *Metallic Wealth of the United States*, and from the late report of the Secretary of the Treasury, show the time to be not far distant when the United States will furnish more copper than can be consumed within their own limits. In 1830 the whole amount of copper produced in every part of the world, excepting China, was estimated at 25,500 tons; of which, Great Britain produced 51 7-10ths per cent.; Chili, 8-10ths of 1 per cent.; and the United States and Canada, 2-10ths of 1 per cent., or 50 tons. In 1853, the total product, as above, had increased to 55,700 tons; of which Great Britain furnished 26 per cent.; Chili, 25 1-10th per cent.; and the United States and Canada, 3 6-10ths per cent., or 2000 tons. Of these 2000 tons 1297 of 2240 *l*bs., or 1453 of 2000 *l*bs., were the product of the mines at Lake Superior. The result at Lake Superior for 1855,—not yet correctly ascertained,—cannot have been less than 3000 tons, valued at \$1,500,000; equal to the amount imported into this country from Chili in 1852.

Imports into the United States of copper and brass, 1851. Manufactured and unmanufactured \$3,030,650 \$5,184,650 Exports 91,871 1,182,276

A very large proportion of the exports of 1855 was on account of the extraordinary demand for pig copper for war purposes in France.

PITTSBURGH (CLIFF).—Since March 14, the stock advanced to \$230. This rise was too rapid, and although no sales have been reported at a lower price, \$215 has been the highest price since April 1. The yield for February was 127 tons. The difference in quantity raised, in favour of the Minnesota Mine, arises not from the superior richness of the latter, but from the inadequate machinery and manner of developing the former. Energetic improvements are progressing, which will produce visible results in 1857.

MINESOTA.—The announcement of a dividend of \$200,000 (\$10 per share) carried the market price to \$70. A slight decline has taken place, but no considerable quantity can be bought at \$69. The product for February was 153 tons.

ROCKLAND.—The entire probability of this mine being, in a very few years, second only to the Minnesota and the Cliff, and the certainty of no further assessments, has caused this stock to advance firmly to \$19.

ISLE ROYALE.—The annual meeting was held on April 19. The directors reported that the mine had cost \$237,958, of which \$168,000 were received from assessments. The construction account is now closed. There are cash assets sufficient to pay expenses until the middle of May, at which time there will be not less than 100 tons of copper ready for shipment, worth \$40,000. All doubts as to the true character of the metalliferous deposits on the company's location are now removed. The drifts now making on the third level (some 20 feet from the surface) prove conclusively the existence of a true vein of extraordinary width and rich in barrel and stamp copper. A dividend will be earned this year.

NORTH AMERICAN (SOUTH CLIFF).—The annual report shows the following results for the year ending Dec. 31, 1855:—Aggregate of expenditure, including cost of territory (2316 acres), \$554,671-49. Receipts from assessments and sales of shares, \$241,592; from sales of copper, \$259,163-02; leaving a balance of indebtedness of \$53,916-47. This balance is reduced by available assets to \$26,321-63. The improved appearance of the mine warrants the expectation of payment of this indebtedness, and the current expenses of the year, from the product of 1856.

COOPER FALLS.—The certainty of another assessment of \$2 per share

The form to make the payment will be delivered upon application at the office, and the certificates must be lodged at the same time, to have the payment endorsed thereon.—33, Broad-street-buildings, March 7. 1856.

THE BRITISH WAGON COMPANY (LIMITED).

(Provisionally registered.)
OFFICES.—CENTRAL CHAMBERS, HIGH STREET, SHEFFIELD.
 Capital £100,000, in 10,000 shares of £10 each.—Deposit on registration £2 per share.
PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS.
 SAMUEL BARKER, Esq., Moxborough House, near Rotherham.
 JOHN W. DAY, Esq., Pelaw House, Durham.
 JOHN BEATSON, Esq., Rotherham.
 JOHN D. BECKITT, Esq., Elmfield House, Swinton, Rotherham.
 HENRY WRIGHT, Esq., Salford, Birmingham.
 JOHN JOHNSON, Esq., Waltham-on-Avon, near Rotherham.
 (With power to add to their number.)
BANKERS.—The Sheffield and Rotherham Banking Company.
JOINT SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Nicholson and Lingard, Wath, near Rotherham; Messrs. Colmore and Beale, Birmingham.
SECRETARY (pro tem).—Mr. John Hewitt, Central Chambers, High-street, Sheffield.

A payment of £2 per share will be required on the complete registration of the company, and the remainder of the capital will be called up from time to time in calls not exceeding the sum of £2 per share, and at intervals not less than three months; but any shareholder desirous to pay up the whole of his shares at once, may do so upon such terms as the directors and parties may agree upon.
 Applications for shares, and for the prospectus of the company, may be made to any of the following parties:—viz., To the solicitor; the secretary; at the offices of the company; Messrs. Moore and Carr, stock and sharebrokers, 61, Threadneedle-street, London; Mr. JOHN WATSON, stock and sharebroker, Sheffield; Mr. J. W. HAMILTON, stock and sharebroker, 14, Waterloo-street, Birmingham; or to Messrs. J. Watson and Sons, railway carriage builders, Birmingham.

EXMOUTH AND ADAMS UNITED MINES, CHRISTOW.
DEVON.—The Committee invite TENDERS for the SUPPLY of the following ARTICLES:—
 250 loads of half-round Norway timber, 6 tons of best iron, at per ton.
 to average 12 to 13 ft. at per foot. Nails, 3, 4, and 5 in., patent, at per cwt.
 250 dozen of candles, at per dozen. 5 hides of leather, not less than 40 lbs.
 The timber to be delivered free at Teignmouth within one month from date of tender; and the other articles to be delivered, as required, in Exeter, or at the mines, within two months from date of tender.
 Tenders to be sent to the office, 21, Southey-street, Exeter, on or before Monday, the 19th May.—Further particulars may be known on application to
 J. G. BIDWILL, Purser.
 Terms:—Cash on delivery, 3½ per cent. off; or, bill at four months from delivery.

GREAT CRINNIS MINING COMPANY.—At the HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of this company, held at the offices, 47, Old Broad-street, on Wednesday, the 30th April, 1856.

C. R. READ, Esq., in the chair.
 The secretary read the notice convening the meeting; and the minutes of the last half-yearly general meeting, which were confirmed.
 The secretary read a report from Mr. Shaw, and also one from Capt. S. S. Rice, the newly appointed agent.
 Mr. Wright, one of the auditors of the company, read a statement of accounts for the past half-year.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Wright, and resolved:—
 That the reports and accounts, as now read to the meeting, be approved, received, and adopted.

Moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. England, and resolved:—
 That, in order to give time to make up and audit the half-yearly accounts ending March and September, the usual six monthly general meetings be held about the middle of the months of May and November.

Moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Shipton, and resolved:—
 That the committee of management be, and are hereby, authorised to receive, in one or more payments, the full amount of 20s. per share on the new shares of the company, and to pay interest on the same at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum from the date of receipt of such payment.

Moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Shipton, and resolved:—
 That the committee of management be, and are hereby, authorised, in accordance with rule 7, to declare forfeited all new shares upon which the second call remains unpaid.

Moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Boyes, and resolved:—
 That the committee of management be authorised to take such proceedings, in respect to the serious injury caused to the mine by the Cornwall Railway, as they may be advised to take for such purpose.

Mr. England and Mr. Read having retired from the committee of management by rotation, it was—

Moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, and resolved:—
 That Mr. England be re-elected a director of the company.

Moved by Mr. Charles, seconded by Mr. Shipton, and resolved:—
 That Mr. Read be re-appointed a director of the company.

Moved by Mr. Charles, seconded by Mr. Shipton, and resolved:—
 That Mr. Wright retiring from his position as one of the auditors of the company, it was—

Moved by Mr. Charles, seconded by Mr. Shipton, and resolved:—
 That Mr. Wright be re-appointed an auditor of the company.

Moved by Mr. Shipton, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, and resolved:—
 That the thanks of this meeting be given to the committee of management, for the manner in which they conducted the affairs of the company for the past six months.

Moved by Mr. Shipton, seconded by Mr. Moxey, and resolved:—
 That a vote of thanks be given to the auditors for their services to the company.

C. R. READ, Chairman.
 That a vote of thanks be given to the Chairman, for his able conduct in the chair, April 30, 1856.
R. C. MANUEL, Sec.

THE CHANCELLORSVILLE FREEHOLD GOLD MINING COMPANY.

The Directors of the Chancellorsville Freehold Gold Mining Company, while preparing to lay before the shareholders an elaborate report, deem it desirable, as much delay has unavoidably occurred, to put forward a few general facts, with reference to their proceedings since their last statement.

The directors are happy to be able to say that the stability and permanent success of this undertaking are now placed beyond doubt or uncertainty.
 Some months have elapsed since the directors received considerable consignments of the ore, in consequence of their determination that its reduction and the extraction of the gold and silver it was known to contain should take place in England, rather than on the estate itself, away from their more direct control. Repeated assays of the ore thus received, made by the most eminent analytical chemists, at once confirmed the original reports of its value.

The great difficulty with which the directors had to contend—a difficulty which is now entirely overcome—arose from the non-existence of any machinery by which positive results could be arrived at, on a scale sufficiently large to establish an average, and at a remunerative cost. They also felt themselves bound to give a trial to various propositions made by gentlemen who believed that they possessed the means of arriving at the desired result.

A reduction of the ore has been made upon a quantity so large as to establish a fair average, with such a yield of gold, and at such a cost of reduction, as more than to justify all anticipations, and to render the success of the undertaking a matter of certainty. In the meantime, the directors are making arrangements for the regular transmission of the ore, and for its reduction on a scale commensurate with the extent of the undertaking.

They will be able, in the more full report they will shortly publish, to state the exact expenses, and the average profit.

The directors have also the satisfaction to add, that there will be no necessity for any increase of the capital of the company, which is quite sufficient for the purposes of the undertaking.
 By order, **W. S. TROTTER, Sec.**
 1, Great Winchester-street, May 8, 1856.

UNITY JOINT-STOCK MUTUAL BANKING ASSOCIATION.

For promoting a system of banking, whereby customers of the bank are entitled to bonus by way of interest, estimated after the rate of 50 per cent. of the net profits, without any liability as partners.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.
 Subscribed capital, £300,000.—Paid-up capital, £150,000.

The number of shareholders being 549, whose names and addresses are published.

This BANK is NOW OPEN, at the Chief Offices, Unity-buildings, No. 10, Cannon-street, City; and at the Leicester-square Branch, No. 1, New Coventry-street, Leicester-square.

TERMS OF BUSINESS.
 CURRENT ACCOUNTS.—Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. allowed upon the minimum monthly balances, where the balance has not been below £300 at any time during the half-year; 1 per cent. when the balance is below £300. Accounts made up each half-year ending 30th June and 31st December.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS.—Amounts from £5 and upwards will be taken upon deposit at call, and interest allowed thereon at 1 per cent. below the rate of discount at the Bank of England, but the maximum not to exceed 5 per cent. This rate of interest uniformly exceeds that allowed by the Savings' Banks, while the system presents the additional advantage, that the amount deposited, or any part thereof, can always be removed without notice.

Money will be received on deposit, for fixed periods, at rates to be agreed upon.

DISTINCTIVE PRINCIPLE OF THE UNITY BANK.
 Interest to customers in proportion to profits. Non-liability of customers.

In addition to the above-named fixed rate of interest upon accounts current, there will be paid, after each half-yearly meeting, as interest on the minimum monthly balances, a sum equal to the profits paid to the shareholders, namely, 50 per cent.

This system of division of profits between the shareholders and customers is secured by Her Majesty's Charter, incorporating the company.

EXTRACT FROM THE CHARTER, CLAUSE 77.
 "That the directors shall in each year, or cause to be paid, out of the funds of the association, to each customer of the association whose cash balances shall not, at any time during the last preceding year, have ever fallen below such sum as shall be for the time being fixed on, or limited by the directors, and who shall not have declined to accept it, the additional interest next hereinafter provided, that is to say, such sum for interest on the average amount of his cash balances during such last preceding year (in addition to the interest provided for in the 74th and 75th Clauses of these presents), as shall bear the same proportion to one equal half-part of the net profits so ascertained as therein provided, as his said average amount shall bear to aggregate average amounts of the cash balance of all the said customers during such last preceding year. Provided always, that the directors shall have power, and are hereby authorised in deciding on the amount or balances which shall be entitled to such additional interest as last aforesaid, to reject fractional parts of one hundred pounds, if they shall think fit; and provided always that nothing herein contained shall be construed to, or in fact, render it compulsory on such customers to accept such additional interest as last aforesaid, and any customer may previously or subsequently to such additional interest; and provided also, that the customers of the association shall not be considered, or in fact be, partners in the said association, or in any manner interested in the capital or joint stock, or the profits thereof, or entitled to any account thereof respectively, nor be liable for any of the debts, losses, or engagements of the said association, but shall only be creditors of the said association in respect of their several cash balances for the time being, and such interest thereon as aforesaid, and the report or statement of the amount of such interest from time to time, made by the directors for the time being of the association, shall be binding and conclusive on the said customers."

By order, **GEORGE CHAMBERS, General Manager,**
 Chief Office, Unity-buildings, 10, Cannon-street, City.

Stanneries of Cornwall.—In the Vice-Warden's Court.

In the CONSOLIDATED CAUSES OF—
BATTEN v. ANGIN, and MICHELL v. SAME.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to TWO several ORDERS, or DECREES, made in these Causes, and bearing date respectively the 10th and 14th days of November last, a PUBLIC AUCTION will be held at BALLESWIDEN UNITED MINES, in the parishes of Madron and Sancreed, within the said Stanneries, on Monday, the 19th of May inst., at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for SELLING ONE 30 in. cylinder ENGINE, with boiler 9 tons, and the first piece of rod.—For viewing the same, application may be made to the Officer of the Court in possession; and for further particulars, to Mr. H. S. STOKES, solicitor, Truro; or to Mr. JOSEPH ROBERTS, solicitor, Truro.
 Dated Registrar's Office, Truro, May 7, 1856.

MINING MATERIALS FOR SALE.

MR. WILLIAM BROWNE has been favoured with instructions to SELL, BY PUBLIC AUCTION (unless previously disposed of by private contract, of which due notice will be given), the WHOLE of the valuable PLANT of MINING and MATERIALS on the HILL MINE, Plympton, near Plymouth, on Tuesday, the 27th May, and following day, comprising a 30 in. cylinder PUMPING ENGINE, 10 ft. stroke, equal beam, with boiler about 11 tons.
 1 large balance-bob.
 1 shears, 60 ft. high.
 1 shears, 30 ft. high.
 140 fms. 12 in. capstan-rope.
 70 fms. 12 in. capstan-rope.
 43 fms. 13 in. pumps, with 13 in. plan-ger, 10 ft. stroke, complete.
 13 fms. 11½ in. drawing-lift, complete.
 12 fms. 11 in. drawing-lift, complete.
 12 ft. 11 in. working-barrel.
 19 ft. 13 in. pump.
 6 ft. 12 in. pumps.
 17 in. working-barrel, doorpiece, and windrose.
 19 ft. 7 in. pump.
 17 in. windrose.
 100 fms. 12 in. iron rods, with hammered iron strapping-plates, bolts, &c., complete.
 3 pair hammered iron caps, with bolts, &c.
 15 pair yokes, from 15 to 18 in. diam.
 1 water-wheel, 30 ft. diam., 3 ft. breast, and double acting shifting gear, with drawing machine, complete.
 1 water-wheel, 30 ft. diam., 3½ ft. breast, with axles, frames, lifters, &c., complete, for 32 heads stamps.
 1 water-wheel, 6 ft. diameter, with gear for two round boulders.
 Several tons of useful iron; steel; 3 pair blocks; 2 beams, scales, and weights; large bell and frame; nails; hiltis; carpenter's bench; a large quantity of new and other useful timber; 2 whim-axes, complete; grinding-stones; smiths and miners' chests; 300 fms. launders; a variety of sheds; dressing knives and tools; tin hutches; barrows; shovels; and numerous other useful articles. Also, the account-house furniture. The steam-engine is of the best construction, and together with the other machinery, is nearly new, and the whole plant will be found in very good condition.
 Sale to commence each day at Eleven o'clock precisely.
 Plympton is on the South Devon Railway line, and the mine is only about one mile from the station, which affords a cheap transit to any part required.
 For further particulars, apply to WILLIAM WEST, Esq., St. Blazey, Cornwall; or to the auctioneer, St. Austell.—Dated May 7, 1856.

LANCIEFIELD FORGE, GLASGOW.
 Upset price reduced to £35,000.
 There will be RE-EXPOSED to PUBLIC SALE, in the Procurator's Faculty Hall, St. George's-place, Glasgow, on Thursday, the 24th day of May, 1856, at Two o'clock, p.m., the extensive works known as the LANCIEFIELD FORGE, in Lansefield-street. The works are situated near the Harbour of the Clyde, in the most eligible situation. The ground contains nearly 10,000 square yards. The buildings are extensive and substantial. There are FOUR STEAM AND TWO TILT HAMMERS, at which have been manufactured the heaviest description of malleable ironwork ever made in this country, including the largest forgings for Scott Russell and Co.'s mammoth steamer. There is also MACHINERY for DRESSING and FINISHING all descriptions of FORGED WORK, consisting of SLOTTING MACHINES, VERTICALS, &c., with simple STEAM-POWER. The purchaser will have the benefit of current contracts, and will take over the utensils, stock on hand, and work in progress, at entry, at a valuation.

Inventories of the machinery, &c., will be exhibited, and any further information given, by Messrs. FULTON and NELSON, at the works; or by Messrs. BANNATTES and KIRKWOOD, or Messrs. TOWNS and ROBERTSON, writers in Glasgow.

MINE MATERIALS TO BE SOLD, BY PRIVATE CONTRACT,
 at the FFGS-Y-BLEIDDIAID MINE, Abergele, near Rhyl, North Wales. The mine is situated 1½ mile from the Abergele Station, on the Chester and Holyhead Railway.

1 cylindrical boiler, 4 ft. diameter, 17 ft. long, 2 tons weight.
 2 cast-iron pulleys for flat ropes, 5 ft. diameter, 7 in. wide.
 18 ft. 11 in. pumps.
 29 ft. 10½ in. working-barrel.
 13 ft. 11 in. doorpiece and door.
 110 ft. 11 in. slide and windrose.
 12½ in. wire rope, 75 fms. long.
 N.B. The lifts of pumps are all new pumps; the boiler and the wire rope are in proper working order.—Further particulars may be obtained on application to Capt. THOMAS PRICE, Abergele, near Rhyl, North Wales.

MINE.—TO BE DISPOSED OF, the LEASE of a very valuable SILVER and COPPER MINE, situated in the best mineral district, and in the immediate locality of the richest dividing mines, in the county of Cornwall.—For further particulars, apply to "G. L." Mining Journal office, 26, Fleet-street.

STEAM-ENGINES, WATER-WHEELS, &c.—FOR SALE, a first-rate STEAM PUMPING ENGINE, 60-horse power, 42 in. cylinder, 8 ft. stroke, with double beat valve; Cornish boiler, 36 ft. long, and 8 ft. diameter. Has not done more than six months' work.

Also, a PATENT UNIVERSAL CONDENSING ENGINE, Craddock's make, with fly-wheel, 3 tons 10 cwt., and two 15-horse cast tubular boilers. This engine has not been in use more than nine months, and is nearly equal to new.

A PORTABLE ENGINE, with copper tubes, on wheels, and in good repair.
 A 12-head IRON STAMPS' AXLE, with framework, &c., complete.
 One 8-head ditto; and a quantity of 7, 8, 9, and 12 in. PUMPS.

The materials are not far from Newton Quay and the Railway Station.—For particulars, apply to CHAS. and HY. WEBBER, ironfounders, Newton Abbott, Devonshire. Estimates and drawings will be forwarded on application.

LEAD WORKS.—TO BE SOLD, OR LET, a LARGE MANUFACTORY in BIRMINGHAM, now in full operation, consisting of a WHITE LEAD WORKS, capable of making 25 tons per week, with grinding and paint stoves, complete, by Fairbairn; a composition and lead-pipe mill, by Eaton; a rolling mill, by Bush, 8 ft. 6 in. wide; and a steam-engine of 30-horse power. The whole of the machinery is of the best construction, and contains all the latest improvements. The works have a frontage of 100 yards to the Birmingham Canal, are within a quarter of a mile of a goods and passenger railway station, are of modern erection, and most substantial character.—Apply to "Box 55," Post-office, Birmingham.

FOR SALE, BY PRIVATE CONTRACT, a valuable MINE, situated in the Vale of Rhedol, near Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, and in a fine mining district. The sett is very extensive, with several workings on grey ground. The buildings, out-houses, dressing-floors, and machinery, have been arranged with much scientific skill, and are of a perfect and complete character. The capital expended amounts to about £3500, and every pound has been judiciously laid out. The machinery and materials are substantial, and in perfect repair, with water-power at all times to any extent from the River Rhedol. The property is held by one individual (no company), under a lease for 21 years, from 30th August, 1853, subject to a royalty of 1½ lb. of silver for every ton of ore raised, and in course of crushing and dressing. The proprietor courts an inspection of the property, and will pay the reasonable expenses of any person's inspection, who, on his own behalf, or as agent, shall become the purchaser.

To treat, apply to Mr. W. S. CRACKER, Parthenon Chambers, 14, Regent-street, London, where a plan of the mine and workings, and ore therefrom, can be seen, and all particulars given, and a satisfactory reason for parting with it.

Extract from the Mining Journal of 20th October, 1855, authenticated sales of lead ore return for the quarter ending 30th September, 1855 (amongst others):—
 "Aberystwyth Goch Mine 2000 tons, realising £791 1s. 6d."

ARLEY COLLIERY SURFACE ESTATE, SHOTTERFORD, NEAR KIDDERMINSTER AND BEWLEY.—TO BE SOLD, BY PRIVATE CONTRACT, this very valuable SURFACE and MINERAL PROPERTY, situated in the Midland Counties, overlooking the Severn, and within 1½ mile of the intended Severn Valley Railway. The surface estate consists of 200 acres of FREEHOLD FARM LAND, in the highest state of cultivation, with a new and excellent villa residence, built in the Elizabethan style, and fit for a family of distinction. The land has been thoroughly drained, whilst commodious and extensive farm buildings have been erected upon the most improved principles, adapted alike to the convenience of a dairy, feeding, or turnip farm. It carries with it a neat dwelling-house for a bailiff, and three cottages for the residence of the labourers employed on the estate. The whole is let for a term of 7, 14, or 21 years, to a most desirable and improving tenant, at a rental of £356 per annum.—For further particulars, apply to Messrs. SYMES, SANDLANDS, and Co., solicitors, 33, Fenchurch-street.

ARLEY COLLIERY MINERAL ESTATE, SHOTTERFORD, NEAR KIDDERMINSTER AND BEWLEY.—TO BE LET, OR SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT, the COAL, FIRE-CLAY, and POTTERY WORKS, on the above estate, with all the MINE and MINERAL running under 200 acres of surface land, described in the advertisement above, and consisting of some of the best and amply proved argillaceous marls, identical in stratification and character with those of Coal Port and Broseley. The coal measures are now in extensive work, and yield a good supply of the best quality, besides an abundant quantity of second-rate character for the use of the pottery works. These stand upon 10 acres of land, and comprise, besides eleven workmen's cottages and a public house, all recently erected, three steam engines, from 16 to 30-horse power respectively, all in excellent repair and now at work, with the necessary sheds, kilns, furnaces, and stabling, for a manufacture of an extensive nature. The proprietor has recently obtained the exclusive right of manufacture of a very valuable pottery patent, patronised by the Government and many public institutions, and daily coming into general use.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. SYMES, SANDLANDS, and Co., solicitors, 33, Fenchurch-street.

NEW WHEEL FOR UNITED MINES.

PARISHES OF BRAGE AND SITHNEY, CORNWALL.
 These most valuable tin mines are held by highly influential persons, who are now forming a company for the purpose of fully developing their metallic deposits; and as they so closely adjoin the Great Wheel Vor Mines, which have proved the richest tin mines in the world, and surrounded by others of great value, and now at high premiums, the fullest confidence is felt that on the full development of these mines the proprietors are fully warranted in their anticipations of success, inasmuch as the mines have been carefully inspected and reported on by Captains John Richards, Manager of the Great Consols Mines; Joseph Vivian, Manager of North Crook and other mines; and Mark Reed, former Manager of the Great Wheel Vor Mines.
 Applications may be made for shares to Mr. BRADDOCK, at the company's temporary office, 6, Gray's Inn-place, Gray's Inn, where the fullest information will be given, and prospectus had.

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE DES CLIPPERS FRANÇAIS.

(EN COMMANDITE.)
 Capital 20,000,000 frs., or £800,000 sterling, in 200,000 shares of 100 frs., or £4, each.

Vice-Admiral Count CASSY, Senator, and former Minister of the Marine and of the Colonies, Paris.

M. LE COMTE SIMEON, Senator, director of the Lyons and Mediterranean Railway, Paris.

Rear-Admiral T. DELOFFRE, former Prefect of Cherbourg.

M. LE COMTE WILLIAMS DE NIEUWERKERKE, 104, Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré, Paris.

M. ERNEST LAFOND, 9, Rue St. Florentin, Paris.

M. S. BELLONE, shipowner and manufacturer, 2, Rue de Buffaut, Paris.

M. AUGUSTE ODIER, 33, Rue Neuve des Mathurins, Paris.

COMITÉ DE SUPERVISION EN ANGLETERRE.
 Col. G. E. PRATT BARLOW, Chairman of Southampton Dock Company.

PHILIP PATTON BLYTH, Esq., Wimpole-street, London.

JOHN BORRADAILE, Esq. (John Borradaile and Co., Calcutta), Gloucester-place, London.

CHAS. S. ANDERS, Esq. (McAlmott Brothers and Co.), Liverpool.

Capt. HENRY SHUTTLEWORTH, elder brother of the Trinity House, and director of the General Screw Steam Shipping Company.

I. R. THOMSON, Esq. (I. R. Thomson and Co.), St. Peter's Chambers, Cornhill, London.

Col. G. A. UNDERWOOD, director of the General Screw Steam Shipping Company.

GERANTS.—Graham, De Linars, and Co.

BANKERS.
 London.....Messrs. Currie and Co., 29, Cornhill.
 Paris.....The Bank of France.

LEGAL COUNCIL IN PARIS.
 M. Raynaud, notary.
 M. Petit Bergon, solicitor.

M. Baudouin, agréé of the Tribunal of Commerce, SOLICITORS IN LONDON.

Messrs. Oliversen, Lavie, and Peachey, 8, Frederick-place, Old Jewry, OFFICIAL AUDITOR.—J. E. Coleman, Esq.

STOCK BROKERS IN LONDON.
 Messrs. Huggins and Howells, 1, Threadneedle-street.

AGENTS AND SHIPBROKERS IN ENGLAND.
 Messrs. Cunard, Brett, and Austen, London, Liverpool, and Southampton.

OFFICES IN PARIS.—20, RUE NEUVE DES CAPUCINES.
OFFICES IN LONDON.—11, KING WILLIAM STREET, CITY.

In accordance with the resolutions passed at a general meeting of shareholders, held at the office, in Paris, on Saturday, March 15, 1856, the object of this company, which was formed originally for the commercial purposes of communication between France and ports in the Indian sea, with clipper-built sailing ships, have been considerably extended, and the system of operations materially improved; it having been determined to unite the maritime enterprise of the two greatest mercantile communities in Europe—England and France; and to substitute screw steam clipper ships of first-rate sailing capacity, with auxiliary clipper hulls.

The undertaking combines all the elements of success that can be contributed by each country; the newly-developed commercial requirements of France afford profitable employment; and the cheap and long-established constructive skill of England provides the best immediate means; whilst the capital, mercantile connections, and nautical genius of both are united in a common object, of the most important and remunerative character. Under such encouraging circumstances, the company have arranged to commence operations at once, by a line of screw clippers, of about 2400 tons average register tonnage, to sail regularly from Havre to Calcutta, touching at the Ile de la Réunion (Bourbon), and such other intermediate Indian ports as may be selected. It is also proposed to open a communication, upon an early day, with the Brazil, and, via the Brazil, with the Cape of Good Hope. The ships will call at the port of Southampton outward and homeward, to receive or land goods, specie, and passengers.

To open these lines without delay, a fine fleet of clipper screw steamers, of established reputation, has been purchased from the General Screw Steam Shipping Company—viz.,

INDIA.
 GOLDEN FLEET.
AFRICA.
 QUEEN OF THE SOUTH.
AMERICA.
 LADY JOCKEY.
 HYDRAUS.

By this important purchase, the company will be protected from the loss which would necessarily follow from their capital lying unproductive while a new fleet was being built and equipped, and be at once prepared to open their trade with the most faithfully constructed steam clippers in existence—possessing the prestige of their previous employment, and the very high character they have since sustained in the transport service of the British and French Governments.

A portion of the capital will be open for subscription in England and the colonies. Each application for shares must be made in the name of one or more persons, accompanied by a payment of 25 frs., or £1, per share on the number required, for which a voucher will be given. In the event of less than the whole number of shares applied for being allotted, the amount paid in excess will be applied towards the balance of 75 frs., or £3 per share, then payable. Should no allotment be made to the applicant, the money thus lodged will be returned, free of charge, within a week from the day of general allotment.

Calculations carefully made by those most experienced in the traffic of France, and the exports from Belgium, Switzerland, and Germany, via Havre, with the ascertained want of steam communication between the ports selected by this company, warrant the directors in stating their conviction that no maritime enterprise ever commenced under more favourable auspices, or with fairer prospects of yielding large returns to its proprietors.

When the capital is fully subscribed, an application will be made for permission to convert this company, which is at present established under the French commercial law as a société en commandite, into a société anonyme, and the gentlemen composing the committee of supervision in England will become members of the council in Paris.

Application for shares, accompanied by the 25 frs., or £1 deposit, to be made to Messrs. CURRIE and Co., 29, Cornhill; Messrs. HUGGINS and ROWSELL, stockbrokers, 1, Threadneedle-street; Messrs. CUNARD, BRET, and AUSTEN, agents and shipbrokers, 150, Leadenhall-street, London; 5, York-buildings, Liverpool; and Canis-road, Southampton; and at the offices of the company, in London and Paris.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

Messrs. Graham, De Linars, and Co., Gerants of the Société Générale des Clippiers, Français.

GENTLEMEN,—I hereby enclose the sum of £ being £1 deposit on shares in the Société Générale des Clippiers Français, and I request you will allot me shares of 100 frs., or £4 each, and I hereby agree to accept such shares, whether that may be allotted to me, and the remaining 75 frs., or £3 per share, at the time that may be appointed. I am, Gentlemen, Your Obedient Servant,

Date.....
 Name in full.....
 Profession.....
 Residence in full.....
 Place of business.....

HANSON'S OLEFIANT GAS COMPANY (LIMITED).

Capital £50,000, in 5000 shares of £10 each, with power to increase.
 Provisionally Registered.

DIRECTORS.
 GEORGE SINCLAIR BRODIE, Esq., late of Melbourne, Victoria.

ARTHUR HATHAWAY, Esq., Madras Civil Service, Wimbeldon, Surrey.

ARCHIBALD MACNAUGHT, Esq. (Macnaught, Thomas, Robertson, and Co., Bankside, Southwark; and Rue de Douai, Paris).

WILLIAM RICHARDSON, Esq., M.D., late Royal Artillery, Woolwich.

Lieut.-Col. YORKE, Assistant Adjutant-General Royal Artillery.

MANAGER.—Mr. James Hanson, 2, Portland-place, Wandsworth-terrace.

ENGINEER.—Mr. James Bald Maxton, 31, Blomfield-street, Westbourne-terrace.

CONSULTING CHEMIST.—Philip Burnard Ayres, Esq., M.D., late Professor of Chemistry, Charing Cross Hospital, 6, Upper Portland-place, Wandsworth-road.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Atchison and Hathaway, 38, Lincoln's Inn-fields.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS INCOMPARABLE REMEDIES FOR SORE THROATS, WOUNDS AND ULCERS.—Mr. James Newman, residing near Enniscorthy, was a druggist, and for four years from running up his leg, he tried all the most celebrated remedies, but he had been in a hospital three months, and turned out incurable. He then had recourse to Holloway's Ointment and Pills, and by a steady perseverance in the use for a few weeks he obtained an effectual cure, and his leg is now whole and sound. He has since cured several of his friends, and he warmly recommends them to the same. He is now residing at Holloway's establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York A. Stamps, Constantinople; A. Guldsey, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

THE MINING SHARE LIST.

Shares.	Mines.	Paid.	Last Price.	Present.	Dividends per Share.	Last Paid.	Shares.	Mines.	Paid.	Last Price.	Present.	Dividends per Share.	Last Paid.
3120	Alfred Consols (copper), Phillack	£2 11s. 10d.	£13s.	12s.	12s.	£14 8 0	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1014	Balteswidden (tin), St. Just	11s.	10s.	10s.	10s.	10s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1010	Bedford United (copper), Tavistock	2s. 6s. 8d.	10s.	9s.	9s.	10s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
240	Boscon (tin), St. Just	20s.	15s.	15s.	15s.	15s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
240	Botallack (tin), St. Just	91s.	15s.	15s.	15s.	15s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
100	Brightside and Froggatt Grove, Derbyshire	50	110	120	130	130	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
100	Brynmor Hall (lead), Flint	20	110	120	130	130	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1000	Carn Brea (copper), tin, Illogan	15	75	75	75	75	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
2048	Carayorth (tin), St. Just	4s.	4s.	4s.	4s.	4s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
10000	Castle Slate Quarry, Dolwyddelan	1s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
200	Cefn Cwm Brynno (lead), Cardiganshire	33	80	80	80	80	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
408	Condurow (copper), tin, Camborne	20	140	145	150	150	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
30000	Craven Moor (lead), Yorkshire	20	140	145	150	150	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
128	Cwmystwith (lead), Cardiganshire	60	160	160	160	160	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1000	Devon Great Consols (copper), Tavistock	1	405	395	405	405	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
672	Ding Dong (tin), Gwilt	32	42s.	42s.	42s.	42s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1000	Duloeath (copper), tin, Camborne	257s.	120	125	125	125	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
128	Drake Walls (tin, copper), Calstock	17s. 19s.	8s.	8s.	8s.	8s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
300	East Daren (lead), Cardiganshire	32	8s.	8s.	8s.	8s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
128	East Pool (tin), Cardiganshire	24s.	290	290	290	290	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024	East Wheal Margaret (tin, copper)	3s.	27	27	27	27	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1000	Eyam Mining Company, Derbyshire	3s.	27	27	27	27	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
494	Fowey Consols (copper), Tywardreath	40	80	80	80	80	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
2240	Foxdale, Isle of Man	71. 10s. 6d.	36s.	36s.	36s.	36s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
330	Glitt (New Shares of 25s. each)	25	36s.	36s.	36s.	36s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
444	General Mining Co. for Ireland (cop., lead)	3	2	2	2	2	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
2000	Goginan (lead), Cardiganshire, Wales	8	8	8	8	8	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024	Gonamena (copper), St. Cleer	13s.	26	29	29s.	29s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
13750	Great Polgoth (tin), St. Austell	4s.	1	1	1	1	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
6000	Great South Tolgus	2s.	5	5	5	5	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
20000	Great West Voe (tin, copper), Helston	100	130	130	130	130	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
119	Great Wreath (tin), Helston	100	130	130	130	130	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024	Herodfoot (lead), near Liskeard	8s.	3s.	3s.	3s.	3s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
10000	Hingston Down Consols (copper), Calstock	11s.	9	9	9	9	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
700	Holyford (copper), near Tipton	11	9	9	9	9	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
26	Jamaica (lead), Mold, Flintshire	31. 13s. 6d.	—	—	—	—	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
20	Lacey Mining Company, Isle of Man	100	1000	1000	1000	1000	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
160	Levan (copper), tin, St. Just	100	100	100	100	100	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
400	Lebourn (lead), Cardiganshire, Wales	12s.	12s.	12s.	12s.	12s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
5000	Marke Valley (copper), Cardigan	41. 10s. 6d.	2s.	3	3	3	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
5000	Mendip Hills (lead), Somerset	2	2	2	2	2	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
5000	Merilyn (lead), Flint	3	1s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
20000	Mining Co. of Ireland (copper, lead, coal)	7	13s.	13s.	13s.	13s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
5000	Nantes and Penrhyn	1s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
7500	Nantlle Vale (lead), Llanfyllin	1	1	1	1	1	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
6400	Nether Heath, Westmoreland	2s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
470	Newtona Mining Company, Co. Down	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
200	North Pool (copper), tin, Pool	22s.	85	85	85	85	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
141	North Roskear (copper), Camborne	10	38	38	38	38	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
6000	North Wheal Bassett (copper), tin, Illogan	nil.	38	37s.	38	38	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
6400	Par Consols (copper), St. Buryas	1s.	19	19s.	19s.	19s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
500	Peak United (lead), tin, Derbyshire	11s.	11s.	11s.	11s.	11s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
200	Phenix (copper), tin, Linkinhorne	8s.	550	550	550	550	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1000	Polberro (tin), St. Agnes (Preferential)	15	—	—	—	—	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
500	Providence Mines (tin), Uny Lelant	20s. 13s. 2d.	70	65	67s.	67s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
2500	Rhoswyl and Bacheiddon (lead)	11s.	11s.	11s.	11s.	11s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
512	Rosewarne United (copper), tin, Gwinear	12	91	90	92s.	92s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
12000	Sortridge Consols (cop., Whitcomb, Devon	6s.	2s.	2s.	2s.	2s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
256	South Caradon (copper), St. Cleer	2s.	290	285	285	285	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
128	South Crinnis (copper), St. Austell	19	375	375	375	375	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
9300	South Tamar (silver-lead), Beerferris	17s. 6s. 6d.	6	5s.	5s.	5s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
256	South Tolgus (copper), Redruth, Cornwall	16	120	115	115	115	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
496	South Wheal Frances (cop., Illogan)	18s. 19s. 9d.	350	330	335	335	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024	Spearhead Consols (tin), St. Just, Cornwall	3	2s.	2s.	2s.	2s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
280	Sperne Moor (copper), St. Just	23s. 7s. 8d.	2s.	2s.	2s.	2s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024	St. Aubyn and Grylls (cop., tin), Breage	17s. 8s. 6d.	2s.	2s.	2s.	2s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
94	St. Ives Consols (tin), St. Ives	100	100	100	100	100	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
9800	Tamar Consols (silver-lead), Berranston	4s.	2s.	2s.	2s.	2s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
6000	Tincroft (copper), tin, near Pool, Illogan	3	4s.	4s.	4s.	4s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
2018	Trehan (silver-lead), Menheniot	1s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
672	Trevelyan Consols (tin), St. Ives	11s.	6	6	6	6	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
9s	Tresawen (copper), Gwennap, Cornwall	32s.	150	150	150	150	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
120	Trevelyan (copper), Gwennap, Cornwall	10s.	23s.	21	22s.	22s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
10000	Trevelyan (silver), Boscawen	2	2s.	2s.	2s.	2s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
4096	Trevelyan (silver-lead), Cornwall	3	2s.	2s.	2s.	2s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
100	Trumpet Consols (tin), near Helston	95	90	90	90	90	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
400	United Mines (copper), Gwennap	40	170	200	200	200	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
20000	Vale of Towy (ld.), Llangunifard, Carmarthen	1s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	1s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024	Wellington (copper), tin, Perranuthnoe	8s.	8s.	8s.	8s.	8s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
10000	Welsh Pottery (lead), Penryn, Card.	5	6	6	6	6	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
2000	Widit (New Shares of 25s. each)	3	3s.	3s.	3s.	3s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
6000	West Bassett (copper), Illogan	1s.	34	33s.	34	34	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
256	West Caradon (copper), Liskeard	20	142s.	137s.	142s.	142s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
256	West Darnell (copper), Gwennap	210 7	75	75	75	75	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024	West Providence (tin), St. Erth	5	19	19	19	19	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
400	West Wheal Seton (copper), Camborne	38s.	290	290	290	290	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1228	Wheal Arthur (copper), Calstock	8s.	8s.	8s.	8s.	8s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
240	Wheal Bar (tin), St. Just	6s.	35s.	330	335	335	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
128	Wheal Bassett (copper), Illogan	5s.	560	570	570	570	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
256	Wheal Buller (copper), Redruth	3s.	8s.	8s.	8s.	8s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024	Wheal Charlotte, Perranuthnoe	3s.	375	360	365	365	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
250	Wheal Clifford (copper), Gwennap	4s.	14s.	6	6	6	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
5700	Wheal Exmouth and Adams United	4s.	14s.	6	6	6	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
5000	Wheal Fortescue, Bodmin	nil.	120	115	115	115	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
128	Wheal Friendship (copper), Devon	3s.	12	12	12	12	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
512	Wheal Jane (silver-lead), Kes	10s.	10s.	10s.	10s.	10s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024	Wheal Kitty (tin), Uny Lelant	£1 7 2	33	30	30	30	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
430	Wheal Lelant (tin), Wendron	3s.	20	20	20	20	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
448	Wheal Margaret (tin), Uny Lelant	19s.	35	35	35	35	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024	Wheal Mary Ann (lead), Menheniot	3s.	29	32	35	35	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
80	Wheal Owles, St. Just, Cornwall	70	320	320	320	320	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
240	Wheal Reeth (tin), Uny Lelant	24s.	16	16	16	16	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
158	Wheal Seta (tin, copper), Camborne	107	190	27	27	27	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
500	Wheal Trevelyan (silver-lead), Liskeard	8s.	6	6	6	6	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
1024													